

Hudson
HUDSON HENDERSON INSURANCE BROKERS

AUTO ~ HOME ~
BUSINESS ~ COTTAGES

INSURANCE
705-286-4727
info@hudsonhenderson.com

MINDEN • HALIBURTON • BANCROFT

The Times

MINDEN ONTARIO

Publications mail agreement # 40063862

www.mindentimes.ca

\$1.50 (incl. GST)
Wednesday, January 5, 2022

ROYAL LEPAGE

LAKES of HALIBURTON

*Selling your property
is as easy as 1,2,3,4.*
705-286-1234

Check out our new location at 12340 Hwy #35

RE/MAX PROFESSIONALS NORTH

LISA MERCER
BROKER

Don't keep me a secret.

lisa@lisamercer.ca
cell: 705.457.0364

Follow me on Facebook!

Not intended to solicit properties already listed for sale

Province attempts to slow COVID-19 surge

by SUE TIFFIN
Editor

A new year has brought new provincial restrictions during the fifth wave of the COVID-19 pandemic.

In-person school will move to online learning for the next two weeks, indoor dining at restaurants will be temporarily closed and all non-emergent and non-urgent surgeries and procedures will be paused in an effort to preserve the province's health-care system.

In a Jan. 3 press conference, Premier Doug Ford announced the province would move to a modified Step Two of the government's Roadmap to Reopen, with the new measures beginning Jan. 5 in an attempt to slow a surge of COVID-19 cases that modelling shows would overwhelm hospitals. Ford said public health experts said hundreds of thousands of cases of COVID-19 could be reported every day as the highly-transmissible Omicron variant spreads. He noted the variant is so contagious it can't be stopped, only slowed and that the current pace of spread is not sustainable for hospitals.

"The fact is Omicron spreads like wildfire,"

see NEW page 3



Keeping an eagle eye on the new year

Chantel Smith's day was made when she saw this bald eagle in Minden on Dec. 27 and had her camera on her, too. During the 55th Minden Christmas Bird Count, which took place on Dec. 18, four bald eagles were spotted. To learn more, see story on Page 19. /Photo by Chantel Smith

Emergency departments to remain open

by SUE TIFFIN
Editor

Emergency departments in Haliburton County will remain open.

In November, Haliburton Highlands Health Services told the community that staff shortages threatened the upcoming closure of emergency departments at hospitals in

Haliburton County. According to an update on Dec. 21, staff has been secured for the upcoming months.

"At the moment, HHHS has secured enough agency nurses support to keep both emergency departments operating in the months ahead, though the ongoing shortage of staff across the province means we do not have many contingency plans," reads the release, signed by Carolyn Plummer, HHHS

president and CEO.

"HHHS continues to do everything we can, with the support of the Ministry of Health and Ontario Health, to keep both emergency departments open with full services," reads the community update. "The Ministry is focused on supporting hospitals across Ontario to avoid reducing services, and we are grateful for their diligent hard work."

see HEALTH page 3

Melanie Hevesi
BROKER
cell 705.854.1000
info@melaniehevesi.com
www.melaniehevesi.com

Make ME your REALTOR® of choice
705.854.1000
www.melaniehevesi.com
info@melaniehevesi.com

CENTURY 21
Granite Realty Group Inc.

CLHMS
CERTIFIED LUXURY HOME
MARKETING SPECIALIST

21

Happy new year for deer after ice rescue

A small deer started the year off right by being rescued from the cold water of Mountain Lake.

On Jan. 1, 2022 at approximately 10 a.m., the Minden Hills Fire Department received a call about a deer on the ice on Mountain Lake near Ogopogo Lane.

The deer had been walking across the ice when it went into the water, and was unable to climb back onto the ice. Concerned citizens contacted the fire department to request a rescue.

"This is not something that we do typically," said Nelson Johnson, fire chief. "We try not to place our firefighters at risk for wildlife, but this was a situation where we made the decision to rescue the deer due to the safety concern for the public."

Due to the location, time of day, and the time of year the residents in the area were getting ready to rescue the deer themselves.

"We have the equipment, tools and training to safely perform rescues," said Johnson. "Every time we make this decision, we accept a certain level of risk, and we make plans and decisions to reduce the risk to us and the public. It was the right choice."

Our gear allows us to be protected from the cold water and the gear along with the personal flotation devices (life jackets) keeps us afloat if we go through the ice. The Minden Hills Fire Department's procedures have us prepare two rescuers; ready to go if our on-the-ice team is in trouble. The team also utilizes a special Rapid Deployment Craft (RDC) that is capable of supporting the team and equipment, which is designed to float and can go in water, ice and snow. The craft can be tethered to the shore with a rope to haul them back to shore, if required. The members are tethered to the craft and can quick release and swim away if they are in danger.

"All of this equipment, gear, training and procedures is what provides us with a higher degree of safety than just walking out on the ice," said Johnson. "The ice is extremely thin and unpredictable at this time of year and caution should be used when near the water. Keep an eye on your children and your pets. Keep them on shore until the ice is safer."

The MFD responded to the location and was ready to go



When a neighbour spotted a deer trapped on the ice on Mountain Lake on New Year's Day, Todd Wootton called the Minden Hills Fire Department hoping they might be able to help. /Photo submitted by Ogopogo Resort

with a rescue plan, the ice rescue suits and eight fire rescue team members. Two rescue members deployed the RDC and walked across the ice until they could enter the open water area. There, they paddled to the small deer and placed a rope around its head. Once secure the shore team hauled the crew and RDC along with the deer back to shore. The deer was released back on shore and we directed it up the bank towards the woods.

The MFD was on scene for a total of one hour. The rescue was relatively straight forward and there were no injuries or complications. We created a plan, had a back-up option and were prepared for any unrealized situation.

"I am proud of the team that we have here at the MFD, they work together as a team, they train and practice constantly to make this all look easy when we are out there having to do the job we practiced for," said Johnson. "They should all be proud of themselves for going above what is required and the services they offer the community that they work hard to protect. We don't train for rescuing animals but we do train



After concerned citizens contacted Minden's fire department to rescue a small deer on Mountain Lake, the fire department responded to help the deer to safety./Submitted by Minden Hills Fire Department

to perform ice rescues. This was another ice rescue, that involved a small deer."

This year the warm temperatures have the lakes with thin ice and open areas. The MFD recommends that everyone stay off the ice. Hyperthermia can set in in less than 10 minutes if anyone falls through the ice and is wet. Remember that pets don't know how thick the ice is, so keep them off the ice also. The ice needs to be at least 100 mm (4") thick to be safe for one to two people walking across it. Ice that is 50 mm (2 inches) or less is dangerous ice - stay off.

Submitted by the Minden Hills Fire Department

Minden 50's Diner ordered to close

by SUE TIFFIN
Editor

A Minden restaurant is the first premise in the Haliburton, Kawartha, Pine Ridge District health unit's jurisdiction to close as a result of continuous non-compliance.

The Minden 50's Diner, owned by Jason Lake, consented to an order from the Superior Court of Justice to close after failing to comply with a Section 22 order issued by the local medical officer of health.

"The premise had an option to come into compliance or close and they decided to close," said a spokesperson for the health unit.

"The Section 22 order was issued [on Dec.14] under the Health Protection and Promotion Act which governs the prevention of the spread of disease and the promotion and protection of the health of the people of Ontario," reads a Dec. 30 press release from the health unit. "The order required the owner to comply with all provincial measures for restaurants required by the Reopening Ontario Act, and associated regulations, or to close the premises."

Health unit enforcement officers had provided education, printed off a copy of the regulations and issued warnings to staff and management beginning in May 2020. In July 2021,

additional complaints were received that required the enforcement officer's follow-up leading to three tickets – totalling almost \$6,000 - being issued. From Sept. to Dec. 2021, the health unit received 17 separate complaints about the business: staff and clients not wearing masks, the facility not enforcing vaccination requirements, not collecting contact information for sit-down patrons and openly advertising that they would not enforce COVID-19 restrictions.

"The Section 22 order came after HKPRD health unit staff received multiple complaints about the restaurant not following provincial COVID-19 regulations," said the health unit's release. "Health unit staff visited the site multiple times to provide information and education to the owner before progressing to further enforcement measures."

On Dec. 23, a Superior Court judge made an order with the consent of the parties, that the restaurant remain closed until further order of the court.

"Because patrons are not always fully masked while in a food premise, the province's Reopening Ontario Act requires that restaurants take additional actions to prevent spread of COVID-19," said Dr. Natalie Bocking, medical officer of health for the HKPRD health unit. "By not complying with provincial regulations for indoor masking and proof of vaccination, operators put their staff and customers at risk."

A statement on the Minden 50's Diner Facebook page on Dec. 19, 2021 which it noted would be its last day for dine-in service calls the government "draconian."

"The 50's Diner believes in human rights and freedoms and if we can't serve everyone then we would rather serve no one," reads the statement. "This vaccine passport does not prevent infection or transmission, it only creates divide. The government should be ashamed to have created such a destructive narrative. Thanks to all those that supported us over the last seven years – it's been a pleasure but we can not participate in this vax passport it is morally wrong and we hope you all understand."

Bocking acknowledged area restaurants that have followed provincial requirements throughout the pandemic.

"We are grateful to the many operators in our region who continue to work with [the health unit] in meeting the provincial requirements and helping to prevent the spread of COVID-19," said Bocking.





At Riverview Furniture, in downtown Minden, we have you covered for all your home and cottage needs. Whether its Custom Wood Furniture, Mattress's, Appliances, Upholstered Furniture, Blinds or Flooring we are here for you. With over 40 years of experience, trust us to help with your furniture or flooring needs. We offer free shop at home service.

Thank you for supporting us and shopping local.

Be Sure To Follow Us Online!  

705-286-3167 • 94 Bobcaygeon Rd • DOWNTOWN MINDEN
info@riverview-furniture.com • www.riverview-furniture.com

THINKING OF SELLING YOUR HOME OR COTTAGE?

BUYERS ARE EAGERLY WAITING TO PURCHASE A PIECE OF PARADISE IN HALIBURTON HIGHLANDS



Your Haliburton Highlands Re/Max Sales Representative



705-455-2034
ted@tedvasey.ca



Health-care workers 'cope with the latest wave'

from page 1

HHHS is seeking to hire an additional recruiter, to help seek out, train, and deploy additional staff, and to complement the work being done by the County of Haliburton's physician recruiter.

The community update from Plummer also notes:

"It has been a long and hard two years for health-care workers, and the new challenge of Omicron comes at a time when many are tired and stressed. Please do all that you can to keep yourself, your loved ones, and our

community safe this holiday season."

EMS holding their own

Meanwhile, the county's paramedics also continue to serve as frontline health-care workers through the fifth wave of the pandemic.

"I would say the best way to describe it is we are holding our own," said Tim Waite, Haliburton County Paramedic Service director. "The dedication of Haliburton County paramedics is allowing us to cope with the latest wave."

While locally the EMS team experiences very few off-load delays, transfers to the larger centres at times will result in lengthy off-load delays, said Waite.

"Transfers to larger centres are required for our local patients to receive certain treatments and care not available locally," he said. "We transfer to several facilities outside of Haliburton County so depending on patient volumes in the receiving centres will determine if offloads are happening so [it's] very unpredictable. At peak time we have four ambulances fully staffed so, yes, we work to get the crews back to the area as quickly as

possible."

Waite said all public health guidance was being followed to keep staff safe, and the majority of staff had been provided boosters.

"Presently staffing is not an issue, as we just completed a third hire this year to maintain staffing levels."

Waite encouraged the public "to be patient with extra questioning that may be required by dispatch and crews to determine what level of PPE will be required. I'd also encourage the public to continue following public health guidance and be diligent with hand washing and wearing a mask."

New restrictions expected to remain in place until Jan. 26

from page 1

he said. "If we don't act, if we don't do everything possible to get this variant under control, the results could be catastrophic. It is a risk I cannot take."

That day, 1,232 people were reported to be in hospital with COVID-19, 248 of those in intensive care units, though not all hospitals reported on the weekend. In Ontario, 13,578 new cases of COVID-19 had been reported although that number does not record accurate numbers due to restrictions put in place Dec. 31 on who can now receive a PCR test, that being high-risk individuals, front-line workers, residents in high-risk settings and other vulnerable populations. Locally according to the health unit's Jan. 3 data, Haliburton County had reported a pandemic-high of 88 unresolved cases of COVID-19, with 54 new cases reported Jan. 3 – the first report since Dec. 30. Within the province, 3.7 million booster shots have been administered to date.

All public and private schools will move to remote learning beginning Jan. 5, until at least Jan. 17, though schools will be open for emergency child care, and to provide in-person instruction for students with special education needs who cannot be accommodated remotely and for staff who are unable to teach from home.

A previous announcement, made on Dec.

30 by chief medical officer of health Dr. Kieran Moore, had said in-person school would still be happening although a start date would be delayed from Jan. 3 to Jan. 5, which Moore said would give time for school staff to be equipped with N95 masks and for the government to deploy 3,000 HEPA filter units to schools.

After the Jan. 3 announcement, a statement from the Elementary Teachers' Federation of Ontario, the largest education union in the province said the announcement was "a safer decision than the one made last week, but additional action is still needed."

"As the pandemic surges, the Ford government must invest in infection prevention and control measures that ensure in-person learning can continue safely and sustainably," said ETFO president Karen Brown. "Last week's decision came dangerously close to risking the safety of students and ETFO members. We share the belief that in-person learning is the best and most equitable way for students to learn, but it must be safe."

ETFO called for measures including N95 masks to be available to all education workers; that everyone attending school or campus who could be vaccinated should be vaccinated; that access to booster shots should be prioritized for education workers; that HEPA filters should be installed in all classrooms and shared spaces; that Rapid Antigen Tests should be provided to students and education

workers to minimize absenteeism and learning loss; that the paid sick leave program be expanded; that a plan for staff absenteeism due to isolation requirements be provided; and that the province must continue to monitor and report COVID-19 cases/outbreaks in schools, which the government had announced on Dec. 30 it would stop doing.

In the Q and A portion of the press conference, Ford and provincial officials did not offer specific responses to reporters' questions about when other safety measures were expected to be put in place at schools.

As of Jan. 5, social gatherings are limited to five people indoors and 10 people outdoors; organized public events are limited to five people indoors; businesses and organizations are required to ensure employees work remotely unless they need to be on-site; retail settings including shopping malls are permitted at 50 per cent capacity; personal care services, public libraries, outdoor establishments and boat tours are permitted at 50 per cent capacity.

Across the county, restaurants reacted swiftly to the announcement.

The Kosy Korner posted, "Tuesday is our last day. Twenty per cent off all food for dine in or take out, one day only. See you on the other side – stay safe." They expected to reopen after the duration of restrictions.

"Well, here we go again," read a Jan. 3 post including a photo of a take-out sign on the

Mill Pond restaurant's Facebook page. "Who would have thought that two years ago when my friend Bill made me this sign for in front of the restaurant I'd still be using it today. Thanks buddy, it's become a fixture around here. Hopefully one day I can make it into a table top and only look at it to remember these crazy times we lived through."

Jan. 4 was the last day for the Mill Pond's table service, with the restaurant opening for take-out only on Jan. 5 as per the new guidelines.

"I'll be posting our specials daily again and keeping in touch with everyone," reads the post. "Hang in there and stay safe. We got this."

Some restaurants had already closed due to staff being close contacts with people who had tested positive, according to posts on their business social media pages.

An expanded Ontario Business Costs Rebate Program for businesses affected by restrictions was also announced on Jan. 3, with some businesses being reimbursed 100 per cent of property tax and energy costs if ordered to close, and those that must reduce capacity receiving a rebate payment for half those costs.

The new restrictions are expected to remain in place until at least Jan. 26, when Moore said hospital admissions were expected to peak.



IN SEASON, EVERY SEASON

**7 MILNE STREET PO Box 359,
Minden, ON K0M 2K0**
Telephone: 705-286-1260 Toll Free: 1-844-277-1260
Fax 705-286-4917

Follow us on Twitter: [Minden Hills@twpminden hills](#) • Like us on Facebook: [Township.Minden.Hills](#)
www.minden hills.ca

(VIRTUAL) COUNCIL MEETINGS

Council and Closed Session meetings are currently being conducted virtually via web conference meetings, until further notice. Meetings begin at 9:00 AM unless otherwise noted. The schedule of upcoming meetings are:

January 13 – Regular Council Meeting
January 27 – Regular Council Meeting

Members of the Public are invited to observe Council proceedings by joining a live-stream link available on the township website at www.minden hills.ca/council/ or by using the direct link provided in the notice. Meeting agendas are not displayed during the meeting, please download by visiting our website at www.minden hills.ca/council/.

Please note the live-stream link provided for each meeting will only be activated while Council is in session.

PUBLIC WORKS EQUIPMENT OPERATORS NEEDED

We are currently accepting resumes for permanent and temporary full time Equipment Operators for the Public Works Department.

Many of our positions include benefits such as enrollment in a comprehensive benefit package, Employee Assistance Plan, life insurance, personal health coverage, OMERS pension plan, vacation, float and sick time entitlements as well as opportunities for training and development.

Please visit our website at www.minden hills.ca/employment-opportunities/ or email sprentice@minden hills.ca for a list of available jobs and how to apply.

A MESSAGE FROM THE FIRE DEPARTMENT

Slippery Slope: Take Care to Prevent Tobogganing Injuries

If you are planning on taking the kids to the local hill, don't just drop them off, especially if they are a younger age. Stay while they toboggan, make sure everyone wears a helmet – sledding injuries often include skull fractures and broken bones – and be sure to share these important guidelines with them so they can enjoy tobogganing safely.

WINTER DRIVING

Avoid sudden moves, starts or stops. Start slowly on slick or snowy roads and brake gradually, giving yourself plenty of space. Steer gently into turns to maintain control.

LOW WASTE HOLIDAY SEASON

Don't forget to recycle gift wrap and gift bags! Remove all ribbons and bows first. Please place plastic and foil gift wrap in the garbage..

In Case of Emergency Dial 911 After-Hours Municipal Emergency Dial 1-866-856-3247

BOOST UP.

Book your booster today.

Protect yourself against COVID-19.

It's up to all of us.



Visit ontario.ca/covid19

Paid for by the
Government of Ontario



Long-term solutions needed for long-term care: advocate

by **STEPHEN PETRICK**
Special to the Times

New measures by the province to protect long-term care residents from COVID-19 seem necessary, but more work needs to be done to improve their quality of life long-term, said a local advocate.

The Ontario government announced on Dec. 28 that it would once again ban general visitors to long-term care facilities and halt resident day trips that are for social purposes. The rules are to protect the elderly from a devastating fifth wave of the pandemic, which has shattered records for daily numbers of new cases and has health care workers bracing for an influx of hospitalizations.

“It’s kind of a double whammy,” said Bonnie Roe, a lead member of the Haliburton-City of Kawartha Lakes Long-Term Care Coalition, which is advocating for higher standards of care. “We realize we have to keep our most vulnerable residents safe and that’s important. But it seems diametrically opposed to what’s happening in the rest of the province.”

She was referencing the fact that not all of Ontario is in shut down and other people are, generally, still free to attend big events. Sports teams, for example, were at the time of the announcement still able to host up to 1,000 fans in large stadiums. “It just doesn’t seem equitable to me; it doesn’t seem fair ... We want them to be safe, but surely there’s a better way to do it.”

Roe, a retired registered nurse who once worked at Hyland Crest, said that the social isolation long-term care residents face poses a serious health problem, too. She was pleased that the provincial announcement mentioned that “designated caregivers may continue to enter long-term care homes,” meaning that some residents may have at least one loved one they’ll see frequently, but still more work needs to be done.

“It’s a step in the right direction. I’ll give (Minister of Long-Term Care) Rod Phillips credit for that, but that’s all I’m giving.”

Roe argued that homes are severely understaffed and many homes are private businesses, which means, if the wrong managers are in place, they can be driven more by profit than quality of care.

The coalition she’s involved with was born as a result of the scathing military report given to Ontario Premier Doug Ford in the spring of 2020, which revealed that the worst COVID-outbreaks in Ontario long-term care homes were a result of mismanagement and neglect. It was also in response to the tragedy

at nearby Pinecrest Nursing Home in Bobcaygeon, where nearly half of the 65 residents died of COVID in a short time frame.

Roe hopes the government will consider hiring more staff, hold more random inspections to ensure homes are up to code and bring in new standards that are designed to eliminate the feeling of residents being institutionalized.

“This is a key opportunity; the government can do things differently; look at how they can make a long-term care home more like a home and less like something used for profit.”

Meanwhile, the new restrictions and the reality of the fifth wave has led staff at the two Haliburton Highlands Health Services homes to spring into action. HHHS is the body that oversees Hyland Crest, a 62-bed home in Minden, and Highland Wood, a 30-bed home in Haliburton.

In an email, HHHS President and CEO Carolyn Plummer said the organization’s COVID-19 steering committee is meeting more frequently to make sure it’s understanding the new measures and taking every necessary step to keep residents safe, such as implementing screening measures, ensuring proper personal protection equipment is used and putting physical distancing markers in place. It’s also hosting booster vaccine clinics for staff and essential caregivers. She also addressed the fact that finding ways to keep morale up is important, too.

“Our incredible staff team is acutely aware of the physical and emotional impact of this current wave of COVID-19 on residents, patients, family members, and each other. Together, we continue to look for new and innovative ways to boost morale and support one another, including by ensuring families can conduct virtual visits with their loved ones in long-term care, providing mental health supports to residents and to our staff, and through safe activities.”

Plummer also explained that the public can support residents and staff in long-term care homes by doing their part to reduce the spread of COVID.

“The most important way the community can support residents, patients, and staff at HHHS is by following public health measures. This includes wearing masks, physical distancing, reducing the number of contacts they have, being immunized for COVID-19 (first, second, and booster doses), and being diligent about hand washing. The resilience, perseverance, and never-ending compassion of the HHHS staff team is nothing short of inspirational, but what they need most of all is for our community to do everything it can to stay healthy and safe.”

County	Current Cases Not Resolved	Current Probable Cases	Confirmed Cases (Total to date)	Confirmed Cases Resolved (Total to date)	Hospitalizations (Total to date)	Confirmed Deaths (Total to date)	Probable Deaths (Total to date)
Haliburton	88	0	261	172	4	1	0
Kawartha Lakes	410	1	1,925	1,470	59	45	13
Northumberland	618	0	1,874	1,238	45	18	0
Total	1,116	1	4,060	2,880	108	64	13

Haliburton County reports 88 unresolved cases of COVID-19

On Jan. 3, COVID-19 data from Dec. 30 to Jan. 2 was reported by the HKPRD health unit, with 54 new confirmed cases of COVID-19 recorded in Haliburton County, 227 new cases in City of Kawartha Lakes and 323 cases in Northumberland County. /Screenshot from the HKPRDHU website

Parents prepare to pivot kids to online learning, again

by **DARREN LUM**
Times Staff

Students across Ontario will be learning online the next two weeks, as one of the newly announced measures in the face of rising COVID-19 case counts and the threat to the province's healthcare system.

On Monday, Premier Doug Ford made the announcement to take the province to a modified version of Step Two of the province's Roadmap to Reopen, which was implemented last year, beginning Jan. 5 at 12:01 a.m. He did so alongside his ministers of health and finance, Ontario chief medical officer of health and the CEO of Ontario Health – while Stephen Lecce, education minister, was expected to be at the announcement, he was not there.

This decision comes only a few days after the province's chief medical officer of health Dr. Kieran Moore said the return from school holidays would start on Wednesday rather than Monday, which would enable schools the time to provide N95 masks to staff and to distribute 3,000 HEPA filter units.

Ford said returning to a modified version of Step Two was a difficult decision, but necessary.

"This may be a bump in the road," he said. "A pretty big bump, as I said, we're going to get hit like a tsunami. I also said brace for impact because some people don't understand the volume that's going to hit us."

He claimed there could be hundreds of thousands of cases each day, so one per cent of those requiring hospitalization would overwhelm health care without these measures, including the two-week return from holiday. He cited Ontario Health modelling that indicates hospitals could be thousands of beds short in the coming weeks with the current rate of cases.

Ford recognized this decision will disappoint, confuse and anger, but said it was based on how transmissible the Omicron variant is, which he said spreads like "wildfire."

After repeated attempts by reporters, government officials would not answer questions about specific steps (outside of what has been done already) that will be taken in the next two weeks to ensure a safe return for students to publicly funded

and private schools scheduled on Jan. 17.

Locally, parents were bracing for this news, as it was being leaked Sunday night.

Lauren Wilson, was ready to send her four children back this week to J. Douglas Hodgson Elementary School where they are all registered in French immersion.

"They are all vaccinated and I believe the social aspect of school is as important, if not more, than the in-person learning. My four children are all looking forward to going back to school," she wrote in a message.

Wilson, a health professional, trusts in the effectiveness of the vaccinations.

Her two 12-year-old twins are fully vaccinated, and her two nine-year-old twins will soon join them to get their second dose in the coming week.

Learning a language and developing social skills is something that can't be done in isolation, she adds.

"The social aspect is vital and teaches them cooperation, conflict resolution, group work, acceptance, inclusion - most of which can't necessarily be gained from online learning. As well, just the ability for the kids to run around outside at recess with friends and simply be a kid!"

Leah Thomas, whose daughter attends Archie Stouffer Elementary School in Minden, concurred with Wilson about the benefits of in-person learning.

"She really struggled with online learning and we do not have access to unlimited internet where we live, so that was also a struggle. It is important for my child to be in class learning and socializing safely with her peers. I believe that the school works hard to make sure our children are thriving the best they can in the world we are dealt with right now, while also ensuring that they are being safe and staying healthy," she wrote in an online message. "I also have taken the time to talk to my daughter about her preference and she would much rather be in school interacting with her friends than stuck at home. So as a family we have made the decision to send her back to school."

There were 329 students who committed to online learning using Learn@Home back in June.

It's been reported the provincial government will stop collecting COVID-19 case numbers from school boards and suspend the reporting of new coronavirus infections among students and staff starting this week. This was included in a memo from the Ministry of Education, which was sent to school board officials on Thursday, Dec. 30, the same day the province announced the return to school would be Jan. 5, two days after the original return date. This change was attributed to changes to case and contact management. Reports of school and child-care closures due to COVID-19 were expected to continue according to the ministry. COVID-19 cases in Ontario schools have been reported for the last 18 months. There has been 12,062 COVID-19 school related cases, including 10,582 infections among students, which were reported between Aug. 2 and Dec. 24 of 2021.

Wilson, who doesn't fully believe the numbers really tell the entire picture, said the benefits of in-person learning make it worthwhile, particularly with how she has had her children vaccinated and have had their social circles limited.

"My feeling is that in person learning is so important that it outweighs the risk of sending them to school. At this point, the numbers are so skewed (delays in reporting, under reporting, asymptomatic and pre-symptomatic spreading, false negatives of rapid tests, etc) that the COVID case numbers related to school would not be accurate at this point. The numbers mean nothing without context and if the media would focus on the fact that vaccinations are working - that is, keeping people out of ICUs and preventing COVID-related deaths, then people wouldn't be as focused on the daily increase in cases," she wrote.

Thomas appreciates the availability of information and said it's within the right of all parents to know what is happening at their children's schools.

"Communication is key. And if these case numbers are reported it gives the parents a chance to make the decision whether or not to keep sending their child or opt for online learning. I believe that should be a choice because many families have different views and should be informed of the case numbers for sure. I know I would like to know," she wrote.

*Wishing You
A Healthy and Happy*

2022



Lynda Litwin
Sales Representative
Cell 705-457-8511
www.lyndalitwin.ca



*Wishing you
all the best
in 2022!*

Bill Kulas
Sales Representative
Cell: 705-457-5577
www.billkulas.com



**The Ultimate in Professional
and Personalized Service**



Terry Carr
Sales Representative
705.935.1011
Terry@MovingTheHighlands.com
MovingTheHighlands.com

Moving the Highlands

RE/MAX PROFESSIONALS NORTH
Box 1010, 12621 Hwy 35
Minden, ON K0M 2K0

Lisa Mercer Broker
Cell 705-457-0364
www.lisamercer.ca



RE/MAX PROFESSIONALS NORTH

*Don't
keep
me a
secret!*

RE/MAX PROFESSIONALS NORTH



12621 Highway 35, Minden
beside Subway Restaurant

follow us!



*Not intended to solicit properties or clients currently listed

IN OTHER WORDS

Columns and Letters to the Editor

The Times**DAVID ZILSTRA**
Publisher and Ad Director,
david.zilstra@gmail.com**SUE TIFFIN**, Editor
sue@haliburtonpress.com**JENNIFER MCEATHRON**, Admin
jenniferm@haliburtonpress.com**DEBBIE COMER**, Circulation
debbie@haliburtonpress.com**DARREN LUM**, Reporter
darren@haliburtonpress.com**NICK BERNARD**, Reporter
nick@haliburtonpress.com**KAREN LONDON**
Production Co-ordinator
karen@haliburtonpress.com**STACEY POTATIVO**
Production2 IGA Road, Box 97
Minden, ON, K0M 2K0
• 705-286-1288 • Fax 705-286-4768
Published by White Pine Media Corp**APRIL MARTIN**
Production**LAURA SMITH**, Sales
laura@haliburtonpress.com**PAUL BANELOPOULOS**, Sales
paul@haliburtonpress.com**PAT LEWIS**, Inside Sales
classifieds@haliburtonpress.com

Letters to the Editor must be signed and include phone number. Unsigned letters will not be published. Email must include name and phone number. Letters may be edited for length and clarity.

To Subscribe to either the Print or Digital edition,
please email Debbie@haliburtonpress.com or call (705) 286-1288.

What we've learned

REVIEWING THE papers of 2021 to compile the annual Year in Review section for this week's edition was at times a heavy task as the COVID-19 pandemic carried on throughout a second year, and at times offered a reminder of all of the good news that happened, too, last year. Wow, what we've lived through ... but hopefully too, what we've learned.

At the beginning of 2021, we were entering the second economic lockdown in Ontario, with daily COVID-19 cases averaging around 3,000 - but vaccines were on the way. At the beginning of 2022, we've lost count of daily cases due to a reduction in testing, not everyone embraced vaccines or could access them, and this week we've learned we're starting the year with "new" restrictions that don't feel so novel: a return to online learning for students, the closure of in-person dining, a pause on non-emergent and non-urgent surgeries and procedures to help protect our health-care system.

We rely on our government at this time more than ever to help lead based on the resources and the experts they have offering them guidance. While they're not always going to get it right - we hope that they've learned through the pandemic as many of us have to do better.

That's what made Monday's press conference - when Premier Doug Ford emerged to announce new restrictions - so frustrating: we had the information to do better. We knew winter months would result in a COVID-19 case surge as in the previous year, and we had information at the end of November about Omicron and how it might spread - that while it might be more mild (although not to everyone including our most vulnerable who matter too, of course), it was transmissible to the point that if we did nothing or the bare minimum, if we didn't have a circuit breaker as cases skyrocketed, we would inevitably face ... well, what we're facing now: overwhelmed hospitals and staff shortages due to sickness across

all sectors. While we can't control everything that comes our way, last-minute flip-flop decision-making has left parents, educators, school boards, business owners, athletes, volunteers, municipalities, the health unit - all of us - scrambling.

Trying to make decisions during a pandemic can be harrowing. Whether the decision was to keep schools open or not, cancel surgeries or not, close gyms or not, there would have been unhappy campers. But the longer the days went by without the public hearing from their leaders, the more we all struggled. When businesses aren't sure what's happening the next week, they lose money when they have to close unexpectedly - restaurants end up with food waste, staff

ends up without work with no notice. Had teachers known in December their class plans would change, they might have been able to mentally prepare for that over the break. If parents knew even last week that they'd need two weeks of childcare, they might have been less stressed, and their kids would have been less anxious too, having a plan

of some kind in place.

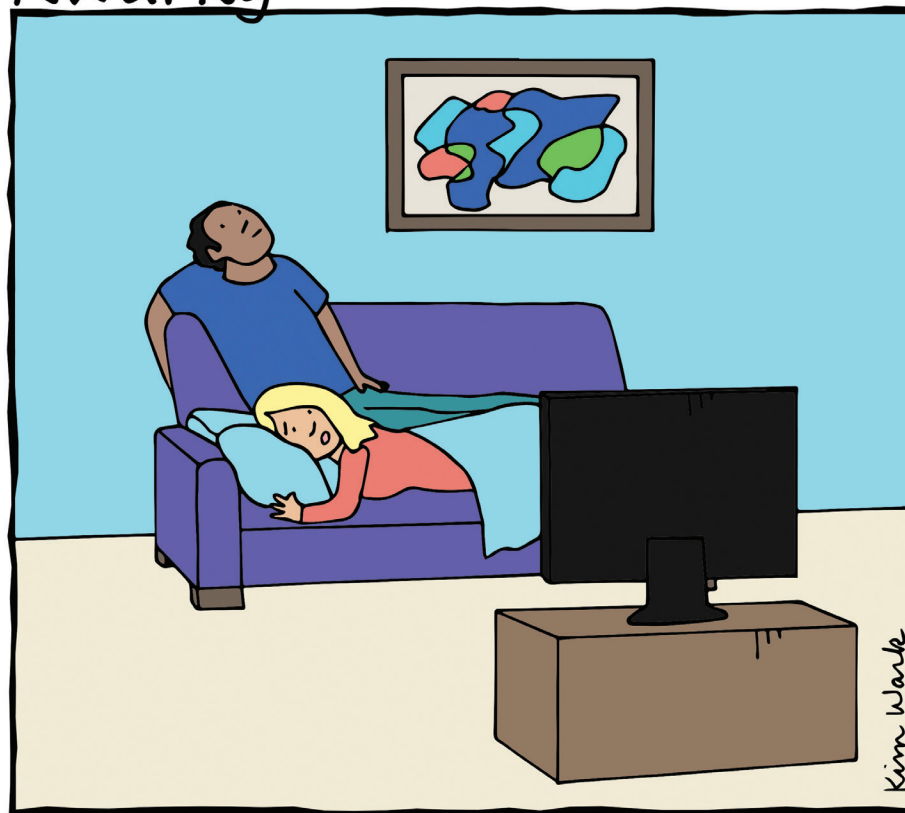
If we really care about mental health we'll do everything we can to make schools safe - which experts have been repeating steadfastly for months and months now means vaccination mandates, reduction in class sizes, proper ventilation, access to N95 masks and Rapid Antigen Tests for all and prioritizing educators for vaccines and boosters. If we really care about mental health we'll make decisions on accurate data and expert guidance and make those decisions as soon as we can so that people feel they have more control in a situation that we're not controlling very well.

Sometimes it's difficult to know if we're facing fatigue from the pandemic, or simply how it's been handled.

Here's to 2022, and the hope for as much good news as possible because we know better, and can do better.

**SUE TIFFIN**
Editor

Kwarky



"We've streamed everything except this documentary about documentaries."

Going a little squirrelly

LIKE MANY Canadians, I am looking forward to that first snowshoeing trip of the season. This will occur sometime after we get a reasonable amount of snow.

I'm not saying the lack of snow is entirely my fault. I know a guy who bought a brand new snowblower too. But I will say this is the way it typically goes. You go to the basement and dig out your snowshoes and ensure the webbing and bindings are in good condition. You ready your day pack and thermos. You look at maps and start envisioning routes and dreaming of the winter landscapes. You find the hat, mitts, and the snow pants you snowshoed in last year - which, by the way, also held the beef jerky you blamed your buddy for eating. (Sorry pal.)

And, in response, Mother Nature gives you an inch of snow.

By January we should be well into the snowshoeing season. Instead, this year we are well into the no-shoeing season.

This is not just bad for snowshoe sales and the places that depend on people using their trails. It is also really bad for red squirrels and the predators that rely on them.

I know this is not something most people think about very often - or ever. But you have to look at it from an ecological point of view too.

Red squirrels spend 90 per cent of their time cursing at things. And humans play an important part in that.

Fortunately, in autumn, the red squirrels have hunters and hikers to vent their frustration out on - generally with a string of squirrel curse words that would make a worldly sailor blush. And, while this is uncomfortable at times for us, it is good

for red squirrel stress levels to get all of those frustrations out. That's important because any biologist will tell you we need a healthy red squirrel population to keep the food chain intact.

Sadly, in winter, all that is threatened. Then, there are very few hunters or hikers. This leaves those little rodents with far too much time on their tiny hands and a lot of pent-up resentment bottled up inside, which, along with seasonal affective disorder, makes for very stressed squirrels. These creatures say really hurtful things. The kind of things that are off-putting to

predators and that could potentially disrupt the food chain.

Predators have feelings too. Never forget that.

Enter the hapless snowshoer. In the grand scheme of things, a recreational snowshoer has very little practical purpose. Or at least that's what most people think.

Yet, we play an important role in winter by providing meandering circular trails and by

giving red squirrels a healthy outlet to vent their frustrations upon, which keeps them from going off on their predators and upsetting the delicate food chain.

Some of the longest and most virulent strings of curse words I have ever experienced have been unleashed upon me while I have been snowshoeing. And not just by the person whose snowshoes I just stepped on either. No, the red squirrels get in on it too.

True, I don't always appreciate the comments they make about my mother, but I do take pride in knowing I am playing a small part in reducing their stress levels throughout the long days of winter.

But it goes both ways. And, this year, if the snow doesn't come soon, they are going to have to return the favour.

**STEVE GALEA**
Beyond 35

IN OTHER WORDS

Columns and Letters to the Editor

Surviving lives in the forest

THERE WAS no finer sight for a New Year's morning. At the edge of a freshly snow-covered clearing behind my place stood a whitetail doe and her fawn.

The white camouflage spots Nature gave to the fawn for protection at its June birth had faded. Its protection now was mom and it stood close beside her, ears twitching nervously as it awaited her signal on how to react to my intrusion.

Then they bolted and disappeared into an evergreen thicket.

Our meeting was very brief, only a few seconds, but long enough for me to recall lessons for living written by Felix Salten in his classic *Bambi: A Life in the Woods*.



JIM POLING SR.
From Shaman's Rock

Everyone knows the heartwarming children's story of *Bambi*, mainly from the Disney film. Disney's *Bambi*, although it has some sad and dark spots, is a lightened, whimsical adaptation of Salten's original book.

Salten wrote the book 100 years ago as an adult story about life. It is packed with scenes of danger and death. Animals, notably *Bambi's* mother, are killed by hunters. The leaves on the forest oaks ponder their inevitable deaths as autumn approaches.

Salten knew something about living in times of danger and death. He was an Austrian-Hungarian Jew born at a time when Jews were not allowed to have citizenship. Nazis burned copies of *Bambi* in the 1930s and Hitler banned all of Salten's books in 1936.

Bambi's life in the woods was filled with threats. To survive he had to learn to recognize and navigate them. He too was shot by a hunter but survived and grew into an adult stag, a strong example of how to overcome life's difficulties and dangers.

We humans live in times of unprecedented difficulties and dangers, which have left us confused, unhappy, and angry. The result has been deteriorating mental health, increased domestic violence, abuse of medical workers, fist fights on airplanes and plenty of general unpleasantness.

Overall, our world has become less tolerant and more critical of everything. We are less friendly with each other - and less compassionate - than we used to be.

So, we stagger into a new year with one leg stretched forward in hope of better times, the other leg dragging the weight of the troubles and worries of the year just passed.

There is much to hope for in this new year, but plenty to worry about. COVID is not going away, creating uncertainty compounded by the lingering issues of racism, social inequity, and political and ideological conflicts.

Leadership, political and social, is floundering. And, without strong leadership many of us have been overcome by fear, negative thoughts, contempt and irrational anger.

Thankfully, there are signs of social leadership, some of it coming from unexpected sources.

Lady Gaga, the flamboyant singer-actress, has become a strong promoter of the belief that kindness is a powerful medicine that can lift burdens and heal mental wounds.

"I've been searching for ways to heal myself," she has said. "And, I've found that kindness is the best way."

Simple acts of kindness can ease the anxieties of our times and show us that perhaps things are not as bad as they seem. Slowing down in traffic so someone can merge in front of you, giving an unexpected compliment or paying for the coffee of the person in line behind you, are simple kindnesses that create smiles that soften distress.

From my point of view the best thing any of us can do is to stand at the edge of the woods, take some deep breaths and think about the lessons of *Bambi: A Life in the Woods*.

Bambi learned not to allow fear and anger to control his life. He listened to his elders and friends and learned that in times of danger, cautious actions are better than rushed conclusions.

Being cautious and thinking things through can help us get through our current difficulties. Simple acts of kindness can draw us closer together to engage our difficulties as a united force.

Bambi's lesson is that all beautiful forests contain inherent dangers. Our lives are forests filled with dark spots. How we accept them and deal with them decides what kind of society we are.



Drag River on the winter solstice /Photo submitted by Guenter Horst

letters to the editor

A true community effort

On behalf of the Haliburton Highlands Sports Hall of Fame, I would like to express our heartfelt appreciation for the incredible community support we have received during the process of the creation of the Hall of Fame. The Hall is proud to be part of the Haliburton County Community Co-Operative and we very much appreciate the support of Jim Blake, who chairs the co-operative.

To our media partners, the *Haliburton County Echo* and the *Minden Times*, the *Highlander*, Canoe FM and Moose FM, we want to express a very special thank you. Your coverage has really helped put the Hall of Fame into the minds of our community. From the very beginning you have been so helpful and encouraging. We would not have been as successful at this point, without you.

To our founding sponsors Curry Chevrolet and Minden Subaru, we add a special thanks. It has made our initial plans easier knowing we had funding to move forward and to accomplish our goals.

To our donors, we want all of you to know how much we appreciate the help you have provided. All of us on the Hall of Fame Committee have been thrilled to see the outpouring of financial support along with important donations of labour from local contractors. Thank you all so very much.

We also want to recognize the support of the Municipality of Dysart et al. Dysart's council has been very supportive of our proposed Hall of Fame project. Not only have they agreed to allow us to redecorate the stage as a display area in the auditorium of the A.J. LaRue Community Centre but also provided important funding and labour to help us make this space appropriate for the Hall of Fame. We have also been very fortunate to have Deputy Mayor Pat Kennedy appointed as the council's representative to our committee. Pat has been very supportive and the committee appreciates his outstanding advice and guidance along the way.

We are very excited to welcome our initial class of inductees, including athletes, builders and teams to the newly created Haliburton Highlands Sports Hall of Fame as soon as the COVID issues will allow. We have June 18 on hold and sincerely hope we will be able to have our first Induction Ceremony at that time.

We have no doubt that our fantastic Highlands community support will help us welcome these amazing athletes, builders and teams as they join the Haliburton Highlands Sports Hall Of Fame. Thank you everyone.

Roger Trull
Chair HHSOF Committee

HCPL's Book of the Month - January



Another overfilled, ill-equipped, dilapidated ship has sunk under the weight of its too many passengers: Syrians, Ethiopians, Egyptians, Lebanese, Palestinians, all of them desperate to escape untenable lives in their homelands. But this time, someone has survived. Nine-year-old Amir, a Syrian boy, is rescued by Vanna, a teenage girl native to the island who is experiencing her own sense of homelessness in a place and among people she has come to disdain. And though Vanna and Amir are complete strangers, though they don't speak a common language, Vanna is determined to do whatever it takes to save the boy.

What *Strange Paradise* is the story of two children finding their way through a hostile world. But it is also a story of empathy and indifference, of hope and despair - and about the way each of those things can blind us to reality. Check out Omar El Akkad's Giller prize winning novel from Haliburton County Public Library today.

2021 *Year in Review*

January

Hike Haliburton: Winter Edition cancelled

In a reminder of cancellations hoped to be left behind in 2020, the first cancellation to be reported in 2021 was the Hike Haliburton: Winter Edition event, which had been scheduled to take place in February. Though approved by councillors in October, with rising COVID-19 case numbers and the province beginning the year under a government-mandated lockdown during the second wave which affected some businesses, the county issued a cancellation notice in late December.

Marina closes following COVID-19 exposure

The Big Hawk Lake Marina shared news that staff had likely been infected with COVID-19 after being exposed during a small family gathering at Christmas and would be closing until public health guidelines allowed reopening.

Minden welcomes first baby of the year

Hunter Paul Boesveld, the first baby born in Haliburton County with support from the Midwifery Services of Haliburton-Bancroft, was born at home in Minden on Jan. 8, at 3:55 a.m., weighing eight pounds, 12 ounces. Parents are Scott and Kate-lynn Boesveld, who purchased Ray's Place on Hwy 121 the previous year, and proud sister is Taylr Jane.

OPSEU buys former Frost Centre

The Ontario Public Service Employees Union purchased the former Frost Centre south of Dorset. OPSEU president Warren "Smokey" Thomas told the *Times* the union was looking to create a training centre for the variety of conferences and training events held throughout the year for its members. The listing price was \$1.1 million.

Province issues 'stay-at-home order'

As of 12:01 a.m. on Jan. 14, Ontarians were required to stay home except for what the Ford government called "essential purposes," including going to grocery stores, pharmacies, medical appointments and for exercise or "essential" work for 28 days, amid the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic. As of Jan. 12, 38 cases of COVID-19 had been confirmed in Haliburton County and a total of 667 throughout the HKPR region since the beginning of the pandemic.



Nadia Pesti skates to her mother Stephanie Mahoney of Kushog Lake while at the outdoor Stanhope ice skating rink on Wednesday, Jan. 20. The family, which included sister Sydney Castator, were out at the park located next to the Stanhope Fire Department on North Shore Road for their regular midday skate. /DARREN LUM Staff

Post-holiday school closure extended

On the same day the province reported a single-day record of 3,519 new cases of COVID-19, as well as a record high number of 89 deaths, Ontario's chief medical officer of health announced elementary students in southern Ontario would not be returning to in-person learning at schools as planned following an extended school closure after the holiday break.

Vaccinations underway at long-term care homes

The health unit received the first 700 doses of COVID-19 vaccine and began administering them to residents at long-term care homes, including Pinecrest Nursing Home in Bobcaygeon, which was the site of an outbreak the previous spring that resulted in 29 deaths due to COVID-19.

COVID-19 outbreak declared at Hyland Crest

A COVID-19 outbreak was declared at Hyland Crest long-term care facility in Minden after two essential caregivers – essential visitors designated by the resident to provide direct care – tested positive for the virus in a routine screening.

County addresses 'misinformation' on shoreline bylaw

Haliburton County councillors called another special meeting to further discuss the county's controversial draft shoreline preservation bylaw, after a discussion during a council meeting that addressed misinformation about the draft bylaw being circulated in the community. The bylaw, which aims to protect lake health by maintaining natural shorelines, would restrict site alteration and the removal of vegetation within 30 metres of the high-water mark around water bodies. It had proven controversial in the community, particularly among some waterfront property owners, and some members of the local construction and landscaping industries.

Since 1865

DOMINION HOTEL
Serving Friends & Family Since 1865

113 Main St, Minden
705-286-6954

Since 1890

J. Austin & Sons Ltd.

castle
building centres

For All Your Fun
Indoor & Outdoor Projects
www.jaustinandsons.com
705-488-2961 or 1-877-488-2961
Kinmount

Since 1923

CURRY

CHEVROLET GMC

Your Friendly GM Dealer
5065 County Road 21, Haliburton
705-457-2100
currychevrolet.ca

Arena won't open until June

It would be at least June before the township of Minden Hills opened its new arena and recreation complex, councillors agreed during a budget meeting. While initially scheduled to be completed in late summer of 2020, finishing touches, including the sealing of concrete floors and the addition of painted lines in the gymnasium, continued to be put on the building. Provincial restrictions in place due to the pandemic meant many of the activities to take place there would be prohibited if it was open at this time.

Staff and students return to in-person learning

More than 100,000 students from across Ontario returned to in-person learning at the end of the month, including those from Haliburton County's five elementary schools and one high school. An extended Christmas school closure, brought on by the provincial lockdown enacted on Dec. 26 to stop the spread of the second wave of the COVID-19 pandemic, was lifted for Jan. 25.

Haliburton hospital ready for patient transfers from GTA

Following another weekend of almost 5,000 cases of COVID-19 across Ontario, health officials were preparing for the worst, with many hospitals, particularly in the GTA, dangerously close to being overrun by the second wave of the pandemic. Haliburton Highlands Health Services confirmed the local hospital was on stand-by and may be directed to accept patients from outside the community "at any time."

February

Vaccine arrives at Hyland Crest

The first Hyland Crest resident to receive the COVID-19 vaccine was 98-year-old resident Elizabeth (Betty) Inglis.

County hires consultant for draft shoreline bylaw

The County of Haliburton passed a motion to put out a request for proposals to "retain consulting services to lead the development of a draft shoreline preservation bylaw, including a review of the related science, an environmental scan, and public consultation."

Minden Pride urges support of Bill C-6

The organizers of Minden Pride called on the community to support Bill C-6, which would outlaw conversion therapy. Haliburton-Kawartha Lakes- Brock MP Jamie Schmale announced he was holding a constituency referendum regarding his support of the bill, asking constituents to vote on the issue, with him then casting his vote in the House of Commons based on those results. Conversion therapy is defined as "practices, treatment or services designed to change an individual's sexual orientation to heterosexual or gender identity

to cisgender or to reduce non-heterosexual sexual attraction or sexual behaviour." "Let me be clear that it is my belief that conversion therapy is wrong," Schmale wrote in correspondence. Minden Pride said they were speaking directly to Schmale and would strongly advocate he vote to outlaw conversion therapy. "This is critical to upholding all Canadians' human rights."

County donates \$25K to assist students with internet costs

The County of Haliburton contributed \$25,000 to Point in Time's campaign to assist students in the county with internet costs in the online learning environment created by the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic. A January presentation to county council from the social services agency explained that some 150 students in the county were unable to attend school virtually due to limitations with internet accessibility.

County council passes 2021 budget

Haliburton County councillors passed the 2021 budget, that final budget containing a tax increase of 3.84 per cent. The 2021 budget includes the addition of an economic development officer on county staff, although that position would be funded through Safe Restart funding from the provincial government. March Break delayed until April

March Break delayed until April

Minister of Education Stephen Lecce announced spring break would be delayed until mid-April for teachers and students in Ontario.

"We recognize that congregation is a key driver of the spread of COVID-19 – something we realized over the winter break, and we will not take that risk again with your child, with our staff and with Ontario families," he said.

Haliburton County reopens in 'orange' level

As of Feb. 16, more businesses could reopen in Haliburton

County and small social gatherings were allowed once again after the Haliburton, Kawartha, Pine Ridge district health unit moved from provincial lockdown measures that included a stay-at-home order, to the Orange-Restrict category of Ontario's COVID-19 Response Framework.

Million-dollar surplus for AH

The COVID-19 pandemic resulted in a large surplus for Algonquin Highlands, one of more than \$1 million, due to cancellation of projects and programs.

Students displaying symptoms told to self-isolate

The Ontario government introduced changes to the COVID-19 school screening protocol, now calling on students who displayed even a single symptom to stay home for at least 10 days, or until they had received a negative COVID-19 test result or been cleared by a health care professional.

March

Haliburton County reports first death due to COVID-19

A resident of Haliburton County was reported to have died due to COVID-19, according to an epidemiological report update from the health unit at the beginning of the month. The death marks the first local recorded COVID-19 related death of the pandemic, which had been declared in March 2020. Confirmed deaths related to COVID-19 are individuals who died and had a positive laboratory test for COVID-19, according to the health unit. At this point, the region had seen 67 deaths related to COVID-19 – 54 confirmed and 13 probable.



Minden residents Shirley Howe, left, and Barbara Ballantyne walk down Bobcaygeon Road on Wednesday, Jan. 27 for their daily walk through the neighbourhood close to their homes. The friends said their daily walks are usually 30 minutes in length./DARREN LUM Staff

Since 1921

Gifts *Galore* and so much more!

Post Office • Garden Decor • Hardware Store
Delicious Treats • Ice Cream Shop • Clothing & Gifts
Geocaching Supplies • Something for Everyone!

Agnew's General Store
WILBERFORCE 1921-2021

agnews.ca • 705.448.2211 • Main Street, Wilberforce, ON

Since 1938

Miners' Bay Lodge

Two Beaches • Tennis Courts • Fishing
Recreational Activities

9718 Highway 35, Minden, ON K0M 2L1
(705)286-2978 www.minersbaylodge.com



Thousands were expected to be vaccinated at the S.G. Nesbitt Memorial Arena. The preparations for the mass clinic were held on Tuesday, April 6 at the new Minden arena, not yet open to the public or seen by the majority of residents. /DARREN LUM Staff

For Heaven’s Sake premieres

True crime documentary series *For Heaven’s Sake*, which focused on uncovering an 87-year-old mystery related to the disappearance of Harold Heaven, came to screens this week. The eight-episode documentary was broadcast on CBC Gem and Paramount+.

Haliburton County moves to ‘yellow’ COVID-19 level

The HKPRD health unit announced the region would be moving to the Yellow-Protect level of Ontario’s COVID-19 response framework. Under the Yellow-Protect level, most businesses and services could continue operating with typical COVID-19 safety protocols in place. In particular, the move lessened restrictions for restaurants.

Second outbreak at Hyland Crest

Haliburton Highlands Health Services was notified on March 12 that an outbreak was being declared at the long-term care home after a staff member tested positive during routine testing for COVID-19. Under guidelines from the Ministry of Health and Long-term Care, outbreaks at LTC facilities were declared upon confirmation of one positive case of COVID-19.

Students quarantining after confirmed cases at HHSS

Haliburton Highlands Secondary School students in a Grade 11 chemistry class, a Grade 12 English class and a Grade 12 math class were identified as close contacts of two students who tested positive for COVID-19. Quarantine is a legal measure required to prevent the spread of COVID-19, and all students in the class were required to stay home with a recommendation to be tested for the virus. TLDSB school testing the week before, which took place on a Saturday at the high school and invited all TLDSB staff, students and their families to be tested, had a low turn-out with 69 people being tested.

Former Storm, Jets player heads to U.S.

Former HHSS Red Hawk Sterling Nesbitt earned a four-year academic scholarship and was recruited to play on the blueline for the inaugural Indiana Tech Warriors women’s hockey program in American Collegiate Hockey Association Division 1.

“I thought I was in a dream,” she said. “It didn’t seem real to me until I finally sent my paper back, my letter of intent and got the text from my coach, saying, ‘OK, welcome to the team.’”

Immunizations of the 80+ population begin

The first appointments for COVID-19 vaccinations in the general public opened on March 22.

The Haliburton Family Medical Centre and the S.G. Nesbitt Memorial Arena were the first two locations to be named as vaccination clinics in Haliburton County. As of March 15, Haliburton residents born in 1941 or earlier were eligible for vaccinations.

Rogers successful bidder on EORN project

Rogers Communications is the successful bidder on the contract for the Eastern Ontario Regional Network’s cell gap project, with some work on the massive project, now valued at more than \$300 million, anticipated to get underway this spring. The public-private partnership project will include upgrading existing towers and the construction of 300 new cell towers throughout eastern Ontario, and aims to ensure 99 per cent of the area has cellular calling service; that 95 per cent of the area has sufficient coverage to run video and applications; and that 85 per cent has the capability to stream high-definition video. The project has been in the planning and fundraising stages for more than four years.

AH council passes 2021 budget

Algonquin Highlands councillors passed the township’s 2021 budget, which included \$12.4 million in total spending, \$5.7 million of which would come from property taxation. This represents a levy increase of 4.98 per cent over last year, which equated to a 3.89 per cent tax rate increase at the lower-tier level for residents. .

Community paramedicine receives funding

Haliburton County received a \$3.25 million provincial windfall to expand the community’s paramedicine for long-term care pilot program.

Laurie Scott, MPP for Haliburton-Kawartha Lakes-Brock, said the initiative would help provide seniors with better access to the healthcare services they required while remaining in the comfort of their own home.

“This new funding will help keep our loved ones at home longer and avoid unnecessary trips to the hospital,” Scott said. “Thanks to our Haliburton County Paramedic Service, this program will help even more seniors and has the potential to delay the need for long-term care.”

Tim Waite, chief of the Haliburton County Paramedic Service, said the funding would be received in stages over the next three years.

Minden Hills council passes 2021 budget

Minden Hills councillors passed the 2021 budget with a tax levy increase of 3.75 per cent. Council’s decision to remove a Bobcaygeon Road reconstruction project from the final draft was later questioned in a delegation by resident Diane Peacock.

April

Mass vaccination clinics and new MOH begin

A mass vaccination clinic opened at the S.G. Nesbitt Memorial Arena at the beginning of April for those eligible for their COVID-19 vaccinations. Dr. Natalie Bocking began her role as HKPRD health unit medical officer of health, replacing acting MOH Dr. Ian Gemmill, who had filled in after Dr. Lynn Noseworthy retired in December. Those receiving their shots at the Minden clinic got an extra bonus: a first look at the new arena.

‘Emergency brake’ announced by province

A day after Ontario saw the highest number of people with COVID-19 related critical illness admitted to intensive care units, the provincial government announced on April 1 they were pulling their so-called “emergency brake,” and called for a four-week shutdown province-wide beginning April 3. Restrictions included prohibiting indoor organized public events and social gatherings, limiting those to a five-person maximum, limiting in-person shopping in all retail settings,

Since 1955

Minden Hospital

Since 1936

Haliburton Hospital

Since 1980

Community Support Services

Since 1966

Hyland Crest

Since 2000

Highland Wood



HALIBURTON HIGHLANDS

HEALTH SERVICES

Thank you for Supporting

Haliburton Highlands

Health Services



HALIBURTON HIGHLANDS

HEALTH SERVICES FOUNDATION

www.hhhs.ca

705-457-1392 / 286-2140

705-457-1580 / 286-1580

Since 1963



MINDEN

ONTARIO

Voted one of Ontario’s Best

small town newspapers

Local • News • Sports • Arts • Entertainment

2 IGA Rd., Minden

www.mindentimes.ca

705-286-1288

including a 50 per cent capacity limit for supermarkets, grocery stores, convenience stores, indoor farmers' markets and 25 per cent for all other retail including big box stores. Additionally, personal care services; indoor or outdoor dining; indoor or outdoor sports facilities and day camps were all off-limits, while capacity at weddings, funerals and religious ceremonies were limited and short-term rentals were to be provided only to individuals in need of housing.

Archie Stouffer students quarantining

Students in a Grade 5/6 class and on a school bus were identified as close contacts of a person who had tested positive for COVID-19, and were required to quarantine at home.

Ontario schools to remain closed following break

High school and elementary students in Ontario would transition back to at-home learning following April Break, Premier Doug Ford announced on April 12, during the third wave of the ongoing pandemic.

Beloved Dorset store under new ownership

Mike and Katie Hinbest were announced as the new owners of Dorset's Robinson's General Store, after Brad Robinson put the legendary location, which had been in his family's name for 100 years, up for sale.

Mass vaccine clinics closed due to low vaccine supply

Mass vaccine clinics in Haliburton County were not running at full capacity due to low supply of vaccines. Five of the six mass vaccine clinics in the region, including the Minden and Haliburton sites, were closed as the health unit used mobile teams to reach congregate care settings and ensure everyone from the province's priority population guidelines had received at least one shot of vaccine.

Celebrating local journalism

The Minden Times celebrated recognition together with sister paper the *Haliburton County Echo* from the Ontario Community Newspaper Association's 2020 Better Newspaper Competition. Popular writer Jim Poling was recognized as Ontario's Columnist of the Year, while the *Times* also received a second-place award in Education Writing, written by Sue Tiffin, and a third-place award for Best News Story, written by Chad Ingram. The *Echo* won five first-place finishes, including Photographer of the Year for Darren Lum, two second-place finishes and three third-place finishes.

Sullivan signs off as library CEO

After a dozen years at the helm of the Haliburton County Public Library, CEO Bessie Sullivan tendered her resignation, which would take effect at the end of May.

"I believe that an organization can only thrive with a leader for so long and then it is time for a change," she said. Anna Babluck was acting CEO while Sullivan had been on leave.



Archie Stouffer Elementary School Grade 1 teacher Chris Little speaks with student Ivy Voicoy about her "food chains" display on April 6 in Minden. The outdoor session, which helped students to understand the relationships between food sources and how integral the sun is to everything, was part of the class's science curriculum. /DARREN LUM Staff

May

Minden becomes home to Junior A team

The new Minden arena will become home to a Junior A hockey team, the Whitby Fury, to be re-branded as the Haliburton County Huskies in the fall. The new arena is to be the team's home base. The draft contract was for seven years, to be reviewed by both parties after three. Director of community services Craig Belfry said the benefit of the team moving to the facility was "enormous."

Up to 40 new internet towers coming to Haliburton County

County and municipal councillors heard from representatives of the Eastern Ontario Regional Network and Rogers about how the EORN's cell gap project would see between 30 and 40 new communication towers constructed throughout Haliburton County. The entire project, which includes the construction of 300 new towers throughout Eastern Ontario and the upgrading of 300 existing ones, was expected to be completed in four years and three months.

County awards contract for creation of shoreline bylaw

The County of Haliburton awarded a contract for the creation of a draft shoreline protection bylaw to Hutchinson Environmental Services Ltd., in partnership with J.J. Richards and Associates.

AH prohibits renting private land for camping

Algonquin Highlands Mayor Carol Moffatt said there had been a number of instances in the township of people renting their land to campers through websites such as Hipcamp, but the practice is prohibited and bylaw staff had been responding to complaints.

AH pays off municipal debt

With a May payment of approximately \$24,000, the township paid off its municipal debt. Councillors received the township's 2020 audited financial statements from representatives of Pahapill and Associates.

Hydro One upgrades transmission station

Hydro One crews completed upgrades to improve power reliability, modernize the grid and advance the expansion of the Minden Transmission Station in May. To reduce service disruptions and the need for future outages, crews bundled work as much as possible and removed hazardous vegetation, installed new smart devices and replaced seven aging poles from the 1950s to modernize the system. These upgrades will limit the number of customers affected by an outage, better detect the location of an issue and restore power to customers quicker.

Short-term rental regulations move to upper-tier

Haliburton County councillors agreed that conversations about the creation of short-term rental regulations for the county's four lower-tier municipalities should move to the county table, with any regulations or licensing system that may be created enacted across the county in a uniform fashion.

Since 1957



EMMERSON LUMBER LTD.

Your Trusted Building Supply Partner

63 Maple Avenue
www.emmersonlumber.com
705-457-1550

Since 2015



Cottage Country Building Supplies

15492 Hwy. #35, Carnarvon
cottagecountrybuildingsupplies.com
705 489 2212

Since 1958

1496909 ONTARIO INC. O/A

**RONALD S. SISSON
BUILDER**

Homes • Cottages • Renovations
A Family Owned and Operated Business
Proudly Serving The Highlands
705-754-3036
West Guilford - Haliburton



Minden rocks Harper and Hunter Hamilton enjoyed some fresh air on the banks of the Gull River in downtown Minden on May 3, sharing a message of kindness and love for the town during the third wave of the pandemic. /Photo submitted by Cheryl Hamilton



Guides and Scouts displaced

The leaders of local Guides and Scouts groups were dismayed to discover through an article in the *Times* that what had been the Scouts hall at the Minden Hills Community Centre would be turned into a dressing area and offices for the new Junior A team, the Haliburton County Huskies. Minden Hills Mayor Brent Devolin stressed that user groups would not be left behind, and township staff met virtually with Guides representatives.

Arena fundraising committee kicks off campaign

The Minden Hills community centre fundraising advisory committee launched a fundraising campaign to raise funds for additional items at the new arena and recreation complex, including a new scoreboard, banner cable and skate harness, a wall-mounted fireplace for the lobby, outside benches and digital signage for the exterior of the building. The Take a Seat campaign invited businesses and residents to sponsor one of 294 seats in the new arena with a \$500 donation.

Surplus spent on roads projects

A 2020 surplus for the Township of Minden Hills that would have totalled some \$1.1 million has formally totalled just more than \$106,000, with the township spending the bulk of the large, anticipated surplus on a series of public works projects. Finance director Lorrie Blanchard explained that 72 per cent of the \$1.1 million surplus came from wages and benefits from unfilled staffing positions in various departments – positions that she said didn't get filled in 2020, or were much later in the year getting filled than the township had hoped. Councillors opted to spend much of the surplus on roads and culvert projects – including the Sunnybrook Bridge rehabilitation, the reconstruction of IGA Road, the emergency replacement of a culvert on Chambers Road and engineering and resurfacing work – the township would have

otherwise had to borrow money to complete.

\$3 million in infrastructure upgrades coming to Haliburton County

Four projects in Haliburton County are benefitting from almost \$3 million in joint federal, provincial and project recipient funding: upgrades to the Haliburton County Rail Trail corridor; renovations to the Kinark Outdoor Centre in Minden; accessibility upgrades at the Minden Library, Minden Hills Cultural Centre, Lochlin Community Centre, Irondale Community Centre and the Minden Curling Club, and rehabilitation of Rotary Beach Park in Haliburton were supported through the Investing in Canada Infrastructure Program.

Planning for September full of 'moving pieces'

While schools remained closed, the school board was planning for both in-school and at-home learning for the 2021/22 year. TLDSB parents were asked to register for online learning by June 1, or be placed in in-school learning in September – some parents felt that was too early to make a decision based on the changing situation around COVID-19. The school board was waiting at that point for a decision about schools reopening for the end of the school year, noting that the government's re-opening plan was based on vaccinations.

Police pull man's body from Kawagama Lake

The OPP recovered the body of a man from Kawagama Lake in Algonquin Highlands after the man had been missing since the day prior. According to the OPP, a single-vessel incident on the lake left two men in the water. One made it back to shore while one did not.

June

OHTO receives \$1 million in relief

The Ontario's Highlands Tourism Organization, of which Haliburton County is a part, received \$1 million from the Federal Economic Development Agency of Ontario to help tourism-based businesses, which had been hit hard by the COVID-19 pandemic, prepare to welcome back customers when it was safe to do so.

Hall of Fame inductees revealed

After three years of work, the Haliburton Highlands Hall of Fame officially named its first group of inductees, representing athletes for their achievements on the ice, field, court and track, builders for their dedication to athletics and the community, and the athletic teams that excelled in the area. Scott LaRue made the induction announcement, listing 17 inductees. The official induction ceremony was scheduled for Oct. 23.

Farmers' markets reopened

The Haliburton County Farmers' Market returned to the Minden fairgrounds, where it operated each Saturday from 10 a.m. until 2 p.m. with COVID-19 restrictions in place.

Cheers to patios reopening

Outdoor dining was permitted under Ontario's COVID-19 economic recovery framework beginning in mid-June. Restaurants had been closed to all forms of eat-in dining since early April amid the third wave of the COVID-19 pandemic, and had been permitted to offer only take-out and delivery. When patios reopened, seating had to be outdoors and limited to four people per table, with exceptions for larger families. Face masks were still mandatory except when seated.

Kinmount Fair cancelled

For the second year in a row, the 150th Kinmount Fair was cancelled due to the pandemic. It was scheduled to take place Sept. 3, 4 and 5. "See you in 2022," read the fair's website.

Councillors discuss collaboration on services

Haliburton County councillors, along with the chief administrative officers of the county and its four lower-tier municipalities, discussed inter-municipal collaboration on roads work, landfills, bylaw enforcement and other services during a special online meeting looking at recommendations from the service delivery review that was presented last year. Implementing recommendations of the review is expected to take a few years.

MH looks at issues with public access

Minden Hills councillors intend for the municipality to crack down on prohibited uses of a public access to Gull Lake at the end of Murdoch Road. Issues at the site, includ-

Since 1968

HALIBURTON
TIMBER MART
Helping you build better since 1968

5148 County Road 21, Haliburton
705 457 2510 or 1-877-425-5862
haliburtonlumber.com

Since 1976

CORDELL CARPET
"Your home and cottage finishing centre"

Benjamin Moore

Inspired Interiors for Home & Cottage
www.cordellcarpet.ca
705-457-2022
25 Hops Drive • Beer Store Plaza

Since 1976

Sharp Electric

Electrical Contracting & Service
Cottage • Home • Commercial • Industrial
705-457-2640
www.sharpelectric.ca
E.S.A. licence # 7002795

ing people cutting down trees, urinating on public property and having arguments with abutting landowners, have been ongoing during the past few years. Council had agreed the township would maintain the long-standing public access to Gull Lake at the end of Murdoch Road in February.

Schools remain closed until September

With the fast-growing B.1.617.2 variant – later known as the Delta variant – causing concern, the Ontario government announced remote learning for all elementary and secondary school students across the province would continue. The government said it expected to reach all youth aged 12 and over who wanted a vaccine with a first dose before the end of June, and with a second dose by the end of August.

Variant of concern cases

Since April 1, most cases – 73.6 per cent - of COVID-19 identified in the HKPRD health unit region were identified as being variants of concern. At that time, the vast majority were identified as the B117 variant, the variant identified in the U.K. and later known as the Alpha variant.

MH considers renovating old fire hall

Minden Hills council discussed exploring the viability of renovating the township's former fire hall into a new space for local Scouts and Guides, as well as other community groups and functions. For the time being, the groups' programming materials were being stored within a viewing area at the new arena, though it was expected they would be moved when the hockey season began in September.

Scott shuffled out of cabinet

Haliburton-Kawartha Lakes-Brock MPP Laurie Scott was one of five prominent ministers removed from the Ford government's cabinet in a shuffle this month, one year ahead of next June's provincial election. Scott was serving as infrastructure minister, after the PCs swept to majority victory in the 2018 election.

Delta variant identified in HKPRD district

A "handful of cases" were reported by Dr. Bocking, medical officer of health for the HKPRD health unit, to have been identified as the Delta variant, or B.1.617.2 strain, in Northumberland County and the City of Kawartha Lakes.

July

Canadian Blood Services discontinue local donation clinics

The final blood donation clinic in Haliburton took place on July 5 at the Haliburton Legion. The closest place Haliburton County residents can donate blood is now in Lindsay or Peterborough.



Members of Minden's Arcadia Masonic Lodge, which is celebrating its 125th anniversary, stand outside the building along Newcastle Street. /FILE photo

Arena costs total \$13.3 million

Costs for the new Minden arena total \$13.3 million, and the township planned to finalize a debenture through Infrastructure Ontario that covered nearly \$11.5 million of that expense. The project got underway in the spring of 2019 and included the demolition of the former S.G. Nesbitt Memorial Arena and the construction of a new facility featuring an NHL-sized rink, six change rooms, a fitness room, and gymnasium with an elevated walking track. The project's initial budget was \$12.5 million.

Road repairs for Ingoldsby transfer station planned for this month

The road and disposal platform at the Ingoldsby transfer station was expected to be repaired this month. The project was included in the township's 2021 budget but its completion had been delayed due to staffing shortages.

High school graduations held outdoors

Ceremonies for graduating Haliburton Highlands Secondary School students took place outdoors, with 113 students graduating. A day-long celebration, where graduates and families were invited to attend, in small groups, for the ceremonial walk was held as well as a virtual event that evening.

Businesses reopening, bit by bit

As the provincial government rolled back COVID-19 regulations, businesses began reopening with mask mandates and physical distancing in place. Since Ontario moved into Step 2 of its reopening plan, Janet Hirstwood of Head Inn Hairstyling said she and fellow stylist Aurora were getting through a dozen cuts per day.

MH eyes road allowance bylaw

Minden Hills council discussed at length a report from CAO Trisha McKibbin that recommended an unopened road allowance bylaw or policy. An increasing population in the county has meant greater pressure on access to waterways and lakes, which are often accessed with unopened road allowances. An examination of use of public land across the township was carried out after a variety of complaints – noise, parking, environmental concerns and trespassing - pertaining to one site, a public access to Gull Lake located at the end of Murdoch Road.

Reviving the Rockcliffe

Mark and Lise Dracup, Dan Gosselin and Kirsty Goodearle were excited to give the legendary and dilapidated Rockcliffe on Minden's main street a new start. Pending all necessary municipal approvals, the group hopes to have The Rockcliffe resurrected in 2023.

Officers cleared in SIU investigation

Two Haliburton Highlands OPP officers who discharged firearms resulting in the fatal shooting of a man last summer were cleared in an investigation by the Ontario Special Investigations Unit. In July 2020, a man went to enter the Minden Valu-Mart and when it was requested he wear a face mask to enter, he assaulted an employee before using his vehicle to ram vehicles in the store's parking lot and speed away. Police used his licence plate to track him to his residence near Drag Lake, where there was an interaction between members of the OPP and the man, which resulted in two officers discharging their firearms. The man was pronounced dead at the hospital. He was later identified as Leslie John Hegedus, 73. An autopsy showed he had sustained three gunshot wounds, with a shot to his right back being determined as the cause of death. The SIU report showed Hegedus had weapons on the property, and had begun firing at police from a concealed location in the bush, with officers returning fire.

Since 1981



Rowden Building Construction

Cottage and House Lifting
Basement, Slabs, Perimeter Walls,
Insured to lift your building.
705-457-2168 or 705-457-3264
Haliburton

Since 1977



MacInnes Flooring

The Floor Covering Professionals
Thank you Haliburton County for your continued support
Wade 705-455-2283 or Shawn 705-457-5844
Free Estimates, Fully Insured & WSIB Compliant

Sustainable since 1962



Haliburton Forest
WILD LIFE RESERVE LTD.

1-800-631-2198
www.haliburtonforest.com

Vaccine choice causing concern

Dr. Natalie Bocking, medical officer of health for the HKPRD health unit, asked that people take whichever vaccine was offered to them at clinics. When vaccinations were first being offered within the area in the early months of 2021, there was a large supply of the Pfizer vaccine, which many people received for their first dose. After that, the Moderna vaccine was more readily available. It was offered to those over the age of 18 as Pfizer vaccine doses – the only vaccine approved for youth at this point – were being saved and administered to individuals between the ages of 12 and 17. Some residents wanted the same brand of vaccine for their second dose as their first, and walked away from clinic appointments upon realizing which vaccine was being offered.

Housing market starts to cool

Following more than 12 months of non-stop activity, Haliburton County’s housing market was showing signs of slowing down according to numerous real estate agents in the area. Both full-time residential and seasonal property prices had spiked to record highs.

Open houses offered for thoughts on shoreline bylaw

Opposing opinions and viewpoints were presented by members of the public during the first of two virtual open houses planned as part of an independent review of a potential shoreline preservation bylaw.

August

County declares end to state of emergency

The County of Haliburton declared an end to the state of emergency associated with the COVID-19 pandemic at the upper-tier level, noting they no longer required the operational flexibility it provided.

The county and most of its lower-tier townships declared

a state of emergency associated with the pandemic on March 17, 2020. The township of Minden Hills had also lifted its state of emergency.

New Minden Hills arena opened

The S.G. Nesbitt Memorial Arena was scheduled to open on Aug. 16 to the public for the first time since being rebuilt, with COVID-19 protocols in place and public access to the walking track and pickleball court available. Ice making for the rink was expected to begin Aug. 13 and be completed by Aug. 27 for the Haliburton County Huskies to run their tryout camp.

Tender awarded for Moore Lake drainage improvements

W.G. Jackett and Sons Construction were awarded the tender for drainage improvements to Shetland Road and Moore Lake Estates. Their bid was lowest at \$146,233, and was within the township’s budget of \$170,500.

Sports Hall of Fame ceremony postponed

As COVID-19 cases began to rise again in Ontario alongside concerns of new variants, the Haliburton Highlands Sports Hall of Fame decided to postpone the upcoming induction ceremony for its first class of inductees. It was originally scheduled to take place in October but was postponed until next year in the spring.

Shoreline bylaw review continues

The first phase included a preliminary review period, where the firms looked at existing legislation and scientific literature, and collected feedback from residents and other stakeholders through an open house, a survey, and in-person interviews. The two firms presented their findings from that phase to council at their Aug. 25 meeting.

Overdoses on the rise

A surge in overdoses, many involving fentanyl, was reported by the HKPRD health unit. In August, five overdoses

were called in to Haliburton Highlands OPP, one of those overdoses resulting in a death. At this point in 2021, HH OPP had investigated four drug-related deaths, an increase from 2020 when two drug-related deaths were investigated.

Long-term care coalition continues advocacy

Bonnie Roe, who helped launch the Haliburton-City of Kawartha Lakes Long-Term Care Coalition back in 2020, criticized Haliburton-Kawartha Lakes-Brock MPP Laurie Scott for “ignoring” a petition with 3,600 signatures calling for change in the industry. Roe delivered the petition to Scott’s office in Lindsay on Aug. 6, after launching it in April. In a response to the *Times*, Scott intimated the Ontario government was doing a good job investing in long-term care. Roe planned to attend a protest regarding the province’s management of long-term care at Queen’s Park in Toronto on Sept. 13.

Honouring Sinc, celebrating Pride

A celebration of life took place for Sinclair Russell during the sixth annual Minden Pride Week which was held at the end of August. A rainbow-coloured bench on the Gull River was dedicated to Russell, a longtime resident, community volunteer and co-founder of Minden Pride. Pride events also included a flag raising at the municipal office, a float down the Gull River and a Storytime with Auntie Plum event.

September

Back-to-school, in-person again

Schools across the province reopened again after being closed to in-person learning since the spring. Mandatory masking for all students, including kindergarten students, was in place again, as was cohorting at the elementary level though while outside, students could remove their mask and

Since 1982



Walker's
HEATING & COOLING SYSTEMS

**Full-Service HVAC Repair,
Maintenance & Installations**

705-457-2375
www.walkershvac.com







Members of Algonquin Highlands council and staff held a flag-raising ceremony outside the township office on North Shore Road on the morning of Thursday, Sept. 30, marking the first National Day for Truth and Reconciliation, which honours the victims of Canadian residential schools, their families and communities. / FILE photo

Since 1983

WEST GUILFORD
Shopping Centre

**Specializing in Fresh Meat
& Custom Cutting**

705-754-2162
www.wgsc.ca
1116 Kennisis Lake Rd., West Guilford

Since 1984



G.J. BURTCH
CONSTRUCTION ENTERPRISES LTD.

Custom Homes • Cottages • Decks
• Porches • Renovations • Additions

www.gjburtch.com 705-457-3837
info@gjburtch.com



Since 1985



TMS
SERVICES

A DIVISION OF 926781 ONTARIO LTD

Licensed Septic Service
Excavating • Haulage • Landscaping

705-457-9229 tmsservices@me.com
Haliburton



mingle. School clubs, extra-curriculars, sports and music programs were expected to resume. High school students were learning in a quadmester model, and lockers were still off-limits. Across the Trillium Lakelands District School Board region, just 329 students opted to enrol in online learning.

MH waives fees for affordable housing project

Minden Hills council voted unanimously to wave the estimated fees for the proposed affordable housing project at Highway 35 and County Road 21 in Minden. Just under \$400,000 in application fees, site plan security and a building permit fee were waived. The land for the 36-unit project was donated by a private citizen.

Archie Stouffer welcomes new principal

Dawn Sudsbury was welcomed as the new principal of Archie Stouffer Elementary School. Sudsbury took the role on from previous principal Jane Austin, who became principal at Ridgewood Public School in Coboconk.

Schmale wins again

After a 36-day campaign, results from the federal election showed Conservative Jamie Schmale being elected again as Member of Parliament for Haliburton-Kawartha Lakes-Brock. "I am honoured and humbled that people of this riding continue to put their faith in me," he said. Prime Minister Justin Trudeau's Liberals won a third consecutive mandate, a second minority government.

Proof of vaccination implemented

As of Sept. 22, the provincial government require people to be fully vaccinated and provide proof of their vaccination status to access certain businesses and settings. "Requiring proof of vaccination in these settings reduces risk and is an important step to encourage every last eligible Ontarian to get their shot, which is critical to protecting the province's hospital capacity, while also supporting businesses with the tools they need to keep customers safe, stay open and minimize disruptions," read a press release from the premier's office.

Health unit reaches milestone with 80 per cent vaccinated

The HKPRD health unit reported 80 per cent of the population aged 12 and older across the region had received two doses of COVID-19 vaccine.

'Light at the end of the tunnel' during fourth wave

"I think it's safe to say everybody is experiencing strain or stress," said Jack Veitch of the Canadian Mental Health Association, Haliburton, Kawartha, Pine Ridge, speaking to mental health of residents during the pandemic. During the fourth wave, Veitch said there was a level of hope in that vaccinations were available.

Second public open house on shoreline preservation bylaw held

A second virtual open house to discuss the proposed draft shoreline preservation bylaw was held at the end of



The Highland Storm under-18 rep team kicked off their season at the new S.G. Nesbitt Memorial arena in Minden and marked the occasion with a ceremonial puck drop performed by Diane Peacock, who was an arena building task force member, between Storm player Hunter Winder, from left, and Bancroft Jets player Ryker Huygen on Oct. 1. Teams are permitted to travel and compete with COVID-19 protocols, as outlined by the OMHA and the regional health unit. /Submitted by Kori Consack.

September, with residents calling in to ask questions of the bylaw and consultation process. County Warden Liz Danielsen said, "It's really great to hear from the public and to hear the different perspectives," noting that council would continue to receive public input on the issue through phone calls, letters and email.

HHSS extra-curricular activities return

After almost two years of pandemic restrictions, athletic teams, social and service clubs and inter-school sports with an emphasis on development were being offered again at Haliburton Highlands Secondary School. Students were engaging in field hockey, a running group, boys volleyball, Interact club, the Gay-Straight Alliance Club and the re-opened fitness room.

Windfall for land trust

The Haliburton Highlands Land Trust received \$61,750 in funding from Environment and Climate Change Canada's 2021-23 Habitat Stewardship Program. The grant will help HHLT in its efforts to build climate change resilience and improve habitat connectivity for wildlife in Haliburton County, with a focus on the Highlands Corridor – land in southern Haliburton that connects three provincial parks (Queen Elizabeth II Wildlands, Kawartha Highlands and Silent Lake.)

Library names new CEO

Chris Stephenson was hired as the new CEO of the Haliburton County Public Library. Stephenson was the branch head librarian at the downtown Kelowna branch of the Okanagan Regional Library and was also CEO and head librarian of the Bancroft Public Library.

ASES reports COVID-19 case

In the first month back to school, one Grade 2 classroom was closed at Archie Stouffer Elementary School after a student tested positive for COVID-19. Staff and students in that student's cohort who were not fully vaccinated were required to isolate.

Fatal off-road vehicle collision

A 45-year-old man from Fergus died as the result of a single-vehicle collision involving an ORV on County Road 121 at Rice Road on Sept. 26. A week prior, an ORV accident on Black River Road resulted in one man being airlifted to a Toronto-area trauma centre in critical condition.

Since 1993

Haliburton County
Home Builders Association

Employers of over 1000 people, proudly supporting Haliburton County!

705-457-6901
www.hchba.ca

Since 1987

Minden Haliburton
Hearing Service

Serving Haliburton County 30 years

Call to book your appointment

705.286.6001

Since 1989

David A.P. Shapiera
LAWYER

Servicing all of your Real Estate and Legal Needs in Haliburton County

- Sales
- Purchases
- Mortgages & Refinances
- Leases

(705) 286-2021
69 Bobcaygeon Road
Minden, ON K0M 2K0
FAX: (705) 286-3930
EMAIL: lawshap@interhop.net

Trust your Real Estate Needs to someone committed to your interests.

Since 1989

Darlene Reil
Sales Representative
Cell: 705.854.2055
Darlene@century21granite.com

CENTURY 21.
Granite Realty Group Inc.

October

Haliburton County Huskies host season opener

The Haliburton County Huskies took to the ice at the S.G. Nesbitt Memorial Arena for their first home game, against the Lindsay Muskies. Fans showed proof of vaccination and wore masks to take in the game, in which the Muskies shutout the home team 4-0. The Huskies had beat the Muskies 3-2 in Lindsay the night before. The Huskies will play 54 regular season games, with 26 home games plus potentially playoffs.

Master plan for ambulance service approved

Haliburton County councillors voted to begin the process of developing a new master plan for ambulance service. The plan, which is expected to cost taxpayers \$100,000 could lead to new recommendations on base locations, staffing levels and how to handle increased call volumes as the county experiences a growing population.

Algonquin Highlands closes Hawk Lake landfill

The Hawk Lake landfill, having reached capacity, was closed after its final day of operations in mid-October. Councillors had decided to shut the site in 2019, rather than converting it to a transfer station.

Beer to pour at the Minden arena

Minden Hills councillors approved director of community services director Craig Belfry’s recommendation to declare each of the Haliburton County Huskies home games as “events of municipal significance,” thus enabling the Huskies to sell alcohol at their games without having to apply for a special occasion permit at a cost of \$150 for each of their 22 regular season home games. Council also expanded the licensable areas in the community centre, and approved that the sale of alcohol be permitted in the ice rink seating area

during Huskies games, a decision that brought forth a lengthy conversation on the pros and cons of allowing alcohol at the games.

Arts Centre undergoes feasibility study

The Haliburton Highlands Arts Centre Foundation saw a feasibility study begin for a modern arts centre in Haliburton County that would include an acoustically engineered performance space large enough to house an orchestra, a secondary theatre for smaller events, acoustically isolated rehearsal spaces, a centralized box office for performing arts events and a lobby where alcoholic beverages could be served. A shortlist of site locations for the arts centre would be submitted to consultants as part of the study.

Legion repairs county cairn

The county cairn located in Minden’s Village Green was repaired by Justin Rowden of JR Masonry after the Minden Legion funded its restoration. The cairn had been in a state of disrepair and was restored in time for Remembrance Day services.

Green burials approved in Algonquin Highlands

Algonquin Highlands became the first township to approve green burials, planning for them at St. Stephen’s Cemetery between the warmer months of April to November. Members of the Haliburton Highlands Green Burial Society begin making delegations to municipal councils last year seeking areas dedicated to green burials, which do not include the use of embalming chemicals, steel, fibreglass or cement vaults, but rather use biodegradable shrouds, coffin-shaped baskets or unfinished wooden coffins.

Mass vaccination clinics return

While vaccine rollout efforts had switched to mobile options, community-based clinics and drive-thru clinics, a return of mass immunization clinics was planned by the HKPRD health unit prior to a pediatric vaccine being potentially made available and eligibility opening up for booster shots.

Draft shoreline preservation bylaw presented

County council voted to hold a special meeting to discuss the draft shoreline preservation bylaw presented to them by consultants after five months of review and public consultation that included an open house, a survey and in-person interviews with the public. The consulting firm recommended the existing buffer zone length of 30-metres, allows for minor landscaping, protects ponds and other natural features and recommends an application-based approach through which residents, business owners and the county itself can transition to be in compliance with the bylaw.

Hyland Crest invites public for trick-or-treat event

After doors remained closed at Hyland Crest on Halloween night in 2020, the long-term care facility invited trick-or-treaters to stop into the foyer for a treat, and to greet residents watching from another room through a video display set-up. The event reconnected area youth with long-term care residents, who had been physically separated due to public health measures during the pandemic.

November

Fitness equipment approved for community centre

Minden Hills councillors approved the contract for the supply and installation of fitness equipment at the S.G. Nesbitt Memorial Arena. The equipment cost \$76,831 and was funded by a grant from the Ontario Trillium Foundation. The awarding of the contract meant the fitness centre in the arena would be able to be used by the public, rather than for what Mayor Brent Devolin referred to as “temporary storage.”

HHHS deals with staff shortage

Haliburton Highlands Health Services was looking at strategies to deal with staff shortages, including looking at innovative staffing models and ways to support recruiting and scheduling as a result of a province-wide staff shortage.

Advocates for climate change action assemble

A small but engaged group of people represented Haliburton County in the Global Day of Action for Climate Justice, coinciding with COP26. The group, which included members of Concerned Citizens of Haliburton County and Environment Haliburton, met with county warden Liz Danielsen, climate change co-ordinator Korey McKay, Dysart et al councillor John Smith and county CAO Mike Rutter at the county building in Minden to discuss the importance of COP26, Canada’s pledge to reduce greenhouse gases by 2030 and how residents of Haliburton County were being affected by climate change.

Since 1993

21



Greater Haliburton Team
Gloria Carnochan & Breann Budel
Sales Representatives
kennisisoffice@gmail.com
www.kennisisredstone.com
(705) 754-1932

Since 1998



CEDAR WINDS
— DESIGN ≈ BUILD —

705-457-3744
www.TheBetterWayToBuild.com
Call us to begin your design-build journey!

Since 2005



Lynda Litwin
Sales Representative

Cell 705-457-8511
www.lyndalitwin.ca



Vaccinated get a boost

Booster shots of COVID-19 vaccine were made available for some of the population – those 70 or older, Indigenous residents, healthcare workers, and those who had received Astra-Zeneca or Johnson & Johnson shots, if it had been six months since their last dose. At this point, during the fourth wave, 83 per cent of residents in the HKPR region aged 12 or older had received two doses of vaccine.

HCSA named snowmobile club of the year

As it geared up for its 50th year, the Haliburton County Snowmobiling Association was named the snowmobile club of the year by the Ontario Federation of Snowmobile Clubs. The federation said “the HCSA was selected for its exceptional innovative activities in participation development, rider experience, volunteerism and partnership development.” The HCSA, a non-profit organization, manages 370 kilometres worth of trails in Haliburton County.

Electric vehicle charging stations installed

Dual port charging stations for electric vehicles were installed at both the Algonquin Highlands and Minden Hills township buildings. Data gathered through the county's Community Climate Action Plan, showed there are 17 electric vehicles and 12 plug-in electric hybrid vehicles registered to residents of Haliburton County. However, officials believe there are many more electric vehicles being driven on local roads by owners who are registered elsewhere.

Algonquin Highlands approves land acknowledgement statement

Algonquin Highlands council voted unanimously to start land acknowledgments recognizing Indigenous people that were impacted by the William Treaties on the land that makes up the township.

Staff recommended the land acknowledgement be read at the outset of council meetings, prior to some public speeches by members of council within the township and that it be posted on the township's website.



Children wave from the Loughheed Construction Services float during the Annual Santa Claus Parade on Saturday, Nov. 20 in Minden. The parade had been cancelled the year before and had an overwhelming response from crowds seeking the festive celebration this year. /DARREN LUM Staff

County considers COVID-19 vaccine policy

County councillors were at odds over how to bring forth a COVID-19 vaccination policy for councillors, committee board members, staff, volunteers and contractors who work for the county. A decision on the policy was deferred until more legal opinions had been sought.

HHHS announces ‘likely’ emergency department closures

In an open letter to residents of Haliburton County, Carolyn Plummer, president and CEO of Haliburton Highlands Health Services, said ongoing challenges of staff shortages could lead to an emergency department closure during certain hours

and days in the coming weeks, and that the situation could “persist for some time.” Plummer stressed the current staff shortage was not related to the vaccination policy in place at HHHS, that the staffing issues had been building and HHHS had been trying to deal with them for some time.

Pediatric COVID-19 shots approved

In a much-anticipated announcement, Health Canada approved a COVID-19 vaccine for kids aged five to 11. The vaccine is a lower dose than that available to adults. The National Advisory Committee on Immunization recommended doses be given at least eight weeks apart for the best immune response. More than 2.9 million pediatric doses of vaccine arrived in Canada within a week of the announcement. In Haliburton County, 844 children were eligible in that age group.

Since 2002



Lakeview Motel & Resort
Guest Dining ~ Licensed Restaurant

Established in 1960
4951 County Road 21
(705) 457-1027 or TollFree: 1-866-385-9347
www.lakeviewhaliburton.ca

Since 2000



WEST GUILFORD TOWING
705-754-3780

We provide customers with local and long distance towing services, as well as flat bed and wheel lift services.

Our towing is available 24/7.

Logos for GM Roadside Assistance and CAA are shown.

Since 2007

Express Your Nature

FURNITURE STORE · BEDROOM GALLERY · HOME DECOR CENTRE · GIFT SHOP · OUTDOOR PATIO

Northern Expressions
Canada

13588 Hwy 118, Haliburton
www.NorthernExpressionsCanada.com

Phone: 705-457-8957
info@northernexpressionscanada.com



December

HHHS deficit adds to challenging year

Board vice-chair David O'Brien reported a deficit for Haliburton Highlands Health Services of about \$613,000, in part because of ongoing staffing pressures of about \$350,000 and total lost revenue from Ministry of Health sources of about \$372,000. HHHS had also not received reimbursements from the provincial government for COVID-related expenses, approaching \$3 million, since the end of February.

Insurance crisis parks snow plow operators

Increased insurance premiums due to slip-and-fall lawsuits in urban areas left some long-time snow plow operators shutting down operations, leaving residents scrambling to find businesses offering snow removal services.

Library lockers installed in Dorset

A public-private partnership between the Haliburton County Public Library and Robinson's General Store began as book lockers were installed outside the general store to provide a temporary pick-up and drop-off depot for library patrons awaiting the reopening of the Dorset Rec Centre, which had been closed since March due to mould, and the Stanhope library branch, closed to the public for renovations since August 2020.

Outbreaks highest in elementary schools across province

COVID-19 outbreaks of a bus cohort and at Stuart Baker Elementary School and J.Douglas Hodgson Elementary School in Haliburton were reported as almost 250 outbreaks were ongoing in elementary schools across the province, the highest since the beginning of the pandemic. The provincial government announced that rapid antigen tests would be dis-

tributed to students to take home for the holiday break.

Liz Danielsen named warden

Algonquin Highlands Deputy Mayor Liz Danielsen made history when she was sworn in as warden of Haliburton County for the fourth consecutive year, an entire term of council. At the inaugural meeting of council, she spoke to the challenges of the pandemic, looked ahead to a community safety and wellbeing plan and review of short-term rentals in the county and also called out "the extent of angst that all or most of council has encountered over the past year," having experienced threats by residents or business owners in relation to the shoreline protection bylaw.

Thousands waited for power after high winds

A powerful windstorm that swept through the province on the evening of Dec. 11 broke hydro poles, downed trees and knocked out power to more than 535,000 Hydro One customers. In Haliburton County, one of the hardest hit areas during the storm, some residents were without power for four days. On Deep Bay Road in Minden, a well-known barn formerly owned by Sinc Nesbitt fell during the storm.

YWCA HERS receives \$50,000 donation

David and Patricia Morton, of Peterborough, donated \$50,000 to the YWCA Haliburton Emergency Rural SafeSpace to support women and children experiencing gender-based violence in Haliburton County. The philanthropists had donated the same amount, also through The Morton Family Foundation, to the YWCA Women's Centre of Haliburton County Outreach Services the year before.

Omicron variant identified in HKPR region

As the holidays drew near, the first case of Omicron was identified in a positive case of COVID-19 in Northumberland County. That same day, on Dec. 15, Premier Doug Ford announced an acceleration of the COVID-19 booster rollout to those 18+ in an attempt to prevent a further surge in COVID-19 cases. In HKPR region, the medical officer of health urged residents to not host large gatherings over the holidays and suggested employers allow employees to work

from home if possible. At this point, 167 cases of COVID-19 had been identified in Haliburton County and 2,716 in the health unit's region since March 2020.

Restrictions for businesses, gatherings as COVID-19 cases rise

Premier Doug Ford announced new restrictions for businesses and social gatherings as COVID-19 cases throughout the province continued to rise in part due to the Omicron variant and the fifth wave of the pandemic.

Emergency departments remain open

On Dec. 21, Haliburton Highlands Health Services announced they had secured staff to ensure emergency departments in Haliburton County could remain open.

"At the moment, HHHS has secured enough agency nurses support to keep both emergency departments operating in the months ahead, though the ongoing shortage of staff across the province means we do not have many contingency plans," read the release, signed by Carolyn Plummer, HHHS president and CEO.



Since 2002

Casey's
WATER WELL & GEOTHERMAL INC.

**Well Drilling • Geothermal Drilling
Hydro Fracturing • Pump Installation**

Fully Insured and Licensed * WSIB compliant * Free Site Visit

Tel 705.457.9558 • Toll Free 877.586.8232
www.totalsiteservices.ca
Proudly serving Haliburton County!

Since 2003

CANOE
100.9 FM

Community Radio for the Haliburton Highlands
Bingo Every Tuesday Night at 6 PM
For more details visit www.canoe.fm

Since 2004

2020 Award-Winning Realtor

Karen Nimigon
BROKER **SRS** **SRES** **ABR**
705-457-6505
karen@karennimigon.com

CENTURY 21.
Granite Realty Group Inc.

Since 2007

TOTAL
Site Services Inc.

TOTAL SITE SERVICES
SITE CLEARING • DRILL AND BLAST • SEPTIC INSTALLATIONS AND PUMPING

Tel 705.457.9558
www.totalsiteservices.ca

**Make the first call be
the only one you need to make!**

Since 2010

Kenneth E. Bailey
Law Office

Real Estate
Business Law
Wills & Estates

Simple Solutions ... to Complex Issues

2 Victoria Street, Haliburton
www.haliburtonlawyer.com

Phone: 705.457.8023 Fax: 705.457.8024

Since 2021

BISHOP GEYER
SURVEYING INC.

(705) 457-2811
www.bgsurveys.ca

Snow dampens 55th Minden Christmas Bird Count

by ED POROPAT
Special to the Times

The 2021 Minden Christmas Bird Count has come and gone. The 55th annual count was held on Saturday, Dec. 18. The weather was cooperative in the first few hours of the morning, with light winds, overcast skies, and relatively mild temperatures (-4°C to -1°C) present.

Due to the warm spell in the previous weeks, many of the large lakes remained wide open and ice-free, a perfect scenario for lingering waterfowl. By 10:30 a.m., however, the snow arrived, falling heavily at times. This hampered visibility in the latter part of the day and made driving more challenging.

In addition to these obstacles, most birds sensed the coming storm and found quiet places to ride it out. Finding any birds in the snowy afternoon became a challenge.

Despite this, a record number of 32 hardy field observers participated in the count, providing about 85 total hours of effort. At least 15 feeder-watchers also assisted, providing an additional 25 hours of observation time.

Although data continues to trickle in, at this point the number of birds counted (4,238) coincides almost exactly with the 20-year average of 4,282. A total of 51 species have been recorded so far, plus another three count week birds, well above the average of 45. As predicted, the diversity was relatively high with several winter finches well represented.

So, what did this year's count reveal? Once again in 2021, most feeder watchers lamented the lack of birds on count day.

Almost all of them commented on the disappointing numbers during the 24-hour survey, despite some busy days at their feeding stations before and after the actual count. This was not a surprise, however, with the combination of a storm system and the abundant food in the woods.

Although somewhat localized, many tree species in our area produced excellent seed crops this past year. Some spruces, tamarack, hemlock and yellow birch all showed signs of a bumper crop in 2021, much to the delight of many hungry finches.

Some field observers noted the exact opposite experience as did feeder-watchers (until the snows arrived), commenting that this was the best winter finch year they could remember. In some portions of the circle, clouds of finches were observed moving between feeding areas. Most abundant were the common redpolls (867) and American goldfinches (354), often in mixed flocks. Among them were smaller numbers of pine siskins (47) and purple finches (6).

Occasionally, the quiet morning stillness was broken by the loud chatter of white-winged crossbills (77) flying overhead. Only a single red crossbill was recorded on count day, although many more are likely present. Evening and pine grosbeaks, so prevalent last year, were generally scarce this winter. Only 18 evening grosbeaks were found on count day, and no pine grosbeaks were seen (although several were observed in the area during the count week).

The extensive open water provided a haven for many lingering waterfowl. This can be both a positive and negative issue for the count. The open water allows birds to remain in the area but spreads them out, making counting and finding them much more challenging. A year with ice covered lakes, on the other hand, concentrates the remaining water birds into small pockets of open water, making them easier to find and count. This year, several common loons (4) have remained in the region. Diving ducks such as common goldeneye (54), hooded merganser (51), and common merganser (28) were all well rep-



resented. The five red-breasted mergansers found on Canning Lake were a nice addition to the day's tally, as were the six buffleheads near Minden (tying a count record). The open water also kept a few gulls in the area. We had a record high count of ring-billed gulls (16) this year, as well as some lingering herring gulls (33). It shouldn't be long before they depart for the winter.

Because visibility was hampered by the snow, raptors were generally difficult to find. Since they rely on keen eyesight to hunt, they were as hampered by poor conditions as field observers were. Bald eagle numbers were down (4), and only a single red-tailed hawk was tallied. An American kestrel observed on Dec. 16 and 17 could not be re-found on count day. It would have been the first ever recorded on the Minden count.

Some of the birds we see during the winter months are visitors only. Other species such as chickadees, nuthatches, and woodpeckers are resident birds that live in the Highlands year-round. Their numbers seemed generally down, although this may be an artifact of conditions rather than actual population declines. The black-capped chickadee numbers (632) are a bit alarming, however. Observers have noted a general scarcity not only here, but in other regions also. Careful monitoring through multiple counts across the province will be vital in the coming years to ascertain if actual declines are occurring.

The wild turkey numbers (107) were below average on count day, but any local hunter will tell you the numbers are healthy and stable, or even still increasing. On snowy days, they prefer to find shelter and wait out the storm. The same is true of ruffed grouse (11). Although only 11 birds were counted, the population is far stronger this winter than numbers indicate.

As always, one of the interesting aspects of Christmas Counts is the discovery and/or documentation of uncommon or rare species. A varied thrush in 2019 brought hundreds of visitors to our area in search of this vagrant from the west coast. This year was no different as there were several highlights on the count. A single male black-backed woodpecker thrilled several observers near Kinmount. Although commoner further north, this is a genuinely rare bird in the southern part of Haliburton County. A single Canada Jay made a brief appearance near Denna Lake. This is a declining species in our area, almost certainly due to climate change. A pair of red-bellied woodpeckers visiting feeding stations near Minden Lake were the only two recorded on the count. This is a species that is expanding its range in Ontario. More will likely show up in the coming years. One group of observers dis-



Above, who's watching whoooo – Eastern Screech Owl.

Left, red-tailed hawk hunting along Deep Bay Rd. /Photos submitted by Ed Poropat

covered two cedar waxwings among a flock of bohemian waxwings (17). The latter species is somewhat irruptive, showing up in our area during years of food shortages in the north. The cedar waxwing, although common during the summer, is a good find in the winter months. Two different white-throated sparrows, and a single female northern cardinal added some nice flavour to the overall tally.

However, the bird of the day was undoubtedly the eastern screech owl discovered by one team in the pre-dawn hours, a new species for the count circle, and the 109th species recorded in the 55 years since the count began. This compact, football-sized horned owl is relatively common to the south of us,

but is a rare, prized find anywhere on the Canadian Shield. Despite its name, eastern screech owls do not normally screech and instead make a distinctive whinny-like whistle or a quiet trill. They are a treat to hear on a still night!

As always, I'd like to extend my thanks to all the dedicated people that participated in this year's Minden Christmas Bird Count, whether field observers or feeder-watchers. This count would not be possible without your continued assistance and passion. Our collective efforts help contribute to knowledge of avian populations and conservation across the continent. I wish everyone all the best in 2022 and look forward to your contributions again next December.

SHOP • DINE • PLAY • STAY



Lovin' it Local

Kawartha Lakes & Haliburton County

When shopping for the holidays this season, explore the unique gifts and treasures in your own backyard.

#lovinitlocal #lovinitlocalkawarthas














check out www.lovinitlocal.ca  

Focus on mental health critical during winter months

by NICK BERNARD
Times Staff

Winter – the coldest, darkest time of the year.

Where the holidays can be difficult for many, the long trudge towards springtime can be even worse for those who have concerns about their mental health.

With the prevalence of the ongoing pandemic and the rise of the Omicron variant, it can be easy to lose sight of any semblances of hope. Jack Veitch, manager of community engagement and education with the Canadian Mental Health Association (CMHA)’s Haliburton, Kawartha, and Pine Ridge branch, points the cause to COVID fatigue and overall burnout. He says that while caregiver burnout is common for healthcare professionals, he has seen a crossover of people reporting burnout over the course of the pandemic.

“It’s so easy to fall into this ... thought pattern of ‘it’s never going to improve, it’s never going to get better,’” Veitch said.

He said the burnout comes from the loss of control that the pandemic has introduced into people’s lives. Veitch says one way to reassert some measure of control is by taking stock of daily habits, and practicing self-care.

“Trying to find the things that work for you, for your wellness, focusing on things that you can control,” he said. “So much of

that is in my sleep, it’s in my diet, it’s in my ... having hobbies, interests, a sense of purpose – routine, and structure.”

He also said exercise, especially in Haliburton County, is also an important booster for mental health. Even light exercise, he says, can help.

“What I do know about my friends and colleagues in Haliburton County and the surrounding area is they love being outside ... especially in the winter. It doesn’t have to be like ... going for a run, or an intense workout. Just going for a walk with snowshoes, going for a hike,” he said. “Even going out ice fishing, which I know is a big thing out that way is ‘okay well, I’ve gotta load up the snowmobile, load up the truck, I gotta get my stuff together, wake up, have breakfast, get going.’ All the little things that go into that sense of purpose.”

Veitch says that while there’s less light and fewer things to do, one of the benefits of Haliburton County and the surrounding area is the abundance of winter activities.

“Ice fishing, snowshoeing, getting out, going for the walk, whatever we’re going to do,” he said, listing off the various activities. “Doing those things outside that we can do to be active, they’re going to be great ... I always say don’t think of exercise as going to the gym, necessarily. Think of it as being out and active and moving around.”

For those with mobility issues, Veitch said home workouts are also viable.

“There are things that can be done, even

for those that have those mobility issues to help,” he said. He adds relying on hobbies can help fulfill a sense of purpose and control.

For those who are isolated and may have an absence of people to connect with, Veitch talks about the work of Peterborough’s Telecare Distress Centre.

“Telecare is a toll-free number you can call and reach out just to talk to somebody, just have someone to connect with and talk to again,” he said. “Sometimes it’s just as simple as that... It’s hard to meet new people, especially during COVID.”

Veitch adds the Four County Critical Crisis line is for cases that are critical or urgent.

Inversely, Veitch suggested reaching out to individuals one might believe are isolated, just to check in and talk.

“Can I reach out and call somebody I know that might be isolated? Can I check in on an elderly family member, on a friend, on a neighbour, just to check in and be like ‘hey, how are they doing’,” Veitch said, referring to checking in by phone or outdoors. “Maybe again focusing on making that call to help out, that little bit of giving back or connecting just to check in with somebody else. It’s going to be helpful for them, and it’s going to be helpful to you and your own mental health.”

Veitch said that in terms of the pandemic, he’s still optimistic that there is a light at the end of the tunnel.

“I really do believe that so much of this really is ... about people coming together,

“

Is there still light at the end of the tunnel? One hundred per cent.

— JACK VEITCH, CMHA HKPR

”

being supportive in communities, working together to create solutions and finding ways just to help each other. And hard times like what we’re facing are some of the times we can find new ways to thrive,” he said. “Is there still light at the end of the tunnel? One hundred per cent.”

He said he was additionally optimistic because of the tools we have available to us that we didn’t have at the start of the pandemic, including safety measures and vaccines.

“Just because I have a step backwards doesn’t mean I can’t recognize the 15 steps I took forward before.”

Anybody who feels socially isolated can speak to someone through the Telecare Distress Centre of Peterborough by calling 705-745-2273. The Four County Crisis hotline can be reached at 705-745-6484.

Sudoku brought to you by

LISA MERCER
BROKER

Don't keep me a secret.

**RE/MAX**
PROFESSIONALS
NORTH

Not intended to solicit properties already listed for sale

lisa@lisamercer.ca
cell: 705.457.0364



Follow me on
Facebook! 

SUDOKU

			4	3				
6		9				4		
4		7			6	3	5	1
9	6	3				1	8	
2		5	7		8	9		
								4
		1	6			2		
5	9				2			
	2		9			7	4	

Level: Beginner





Fun By The Numbers

Like puzzles? Then you'll love sudoku. This mind-bending puzzle will have you hooked from the moment you square off, so sharpen your pencil and put your sudoku savvy to the test!

Here's How It Works:

Sudoku puzzles are formatted as a 9x9 grid, broken down into nine 3x3 boxes. To solve a sudoku, the numbers 1 through 9 must fill each row, column and box. Each number can appear only once in each row, column and box. You can figure out the order in which the numbers will appear by using the numeric clues already provided in the boxes. The more numbers you name, the easier it gets to solve the puzzle!

Answers on page 22



**2022 Municipal Election
Joint Compliance Audit Committee Members**

The Corporations of the Township of Algonquin Highlands, the Township of Minden Hills, the Municipality of Dysart et al and the Municipality of Highlands East, are currently seeking interested applicants from professionals who are required to adhere to codes of standards of their profession, and other individuals with in depth knowledge of the campaign financing rules of the Municipal Elections Act, 1996 for appointment to a Joint Compliance Audit Committee.

The Joint Compliance Audit Committee has full delegation of the authority in the Municipal Elections Act, 1996, to address applications requesting an audit of a candidate's election campaign finances. This authority includes, but is not limited to, the following:

- Review applications and grant or reject audit requests
- Where an audit is granted, appoint an auditor and review the audit report
- Where indicated, decide whether legal proceedings shall be commenced.

The Joint Compliance Audit Committee will consist of members appointed by each Council. Committee members must have the ability to understand and apply the election campaign finance provisions of the Municipal Elections Act, 1996 and should be considered impartial with respect to their ability to fulfill their responsibilities. Preference shall be given to candidates that have applicable experience in accounting, law, law enforcement and academics from related fields.

Preferred Qualifications:

- (a) Accounting and audit – accountants or auditors with experience in preparing or auditing the financial statements of municipal candidates;
- (b) Academic – college or university professors with expertise in political science or local government administration;
- (c) Legal; and
- (d) Other individuals with knowledge of the campaign financing rules of the Municipal Elections Act, 1996.

Members of the public interested in serving on this Committee are asked to submit a resume, and covering letter, marked "Confidential" no later than Noon on January 28, 2022 to:

Robyn Rogers, Clerk
Corporation of the Municipality of Highlands East
2249 Loop Road, P.O. Box 295, Wilberforce, ON K0L 3C0

For further information, please contact Robyn Rogers, Clerk by email at rogers@highlandseast.ca

We thank all applicants for applying, but only the selected candidates will be contacted. Personal information and supporting material is collected and used in accordance with the Municipal Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act.

Local vendors encouraged to join Farmers' Market

by **STEPHEN PETRICK**
Special to the Times

Amid the coldest days of winter, the Haliburton County Farmers' Market is thinking about spring ... and hoping to find new local vendors.

The application process for vendors who wish to have tables this coming season has started. To apply fill out a form at <https://betahcfma.wordpress.com> by Jan. 31.

This year the market is especially encouraging new local agricultural producers and "backyard growers" to apply.

New market manager Lauren Phillips said, traditionally, many of the market's vendors are from rural areas to the south, such as Lindsay or Buckhorn, likely because there's more prime agricultural land there. She's hoping to have more Haliburton County growers on board this year. She encourages people who may have just a small farm or a few products that they grow to apply. For those who may not be able to commit to selling on every market day, there's also a "community table" which several small businesses can share throughout the year.

The first market of the season is scheduled for Tuesday, May 17 at Head Lake Rotary Park in Haliburton. The market then opens at the Minden Fairgrounds on Sunday, May 21. Starting on June 17, the market will also be held weekly at the Stanhope Firefighters' Community Hall on North Shore Road.

There is no shortage of good reasons to support the market, Phillips said.

"You're supporting the local economy and

your community," she said. "It's a great draw for tourists and for locals. The market has something for everyone, from kids, to dogs, to grandparents.

"It's nice to do as a family outing," she said, adding that the Haliburton market takes place with the fabulous backdrop of the lake. "It's fun to go for a walk and see what everyone is making."

The Haliburton and Minden markets usually have 20 to 25 vendors; the Stanhope one is usually a little smaller.

Among the regular vendors are Raisin the Root, a Haliburton County-based business that sells vegan and gluten-free food. There's also McLean Berry Farm, a well-known business for in-season berries, including strawberries.

Arts and crafts are also sold at the markets, but to comply with Farmers' Markets Ontario regulations, the Haliburton County Farmers' Market must have more than half of its vendors selling agricultural products.

Those who participate in the market are also carrying out a long and popular tradition. On any given market day, the market can see 1,000 to 1,500 customers, Phillips said. She estimates that more than 20,000 customers attended over the course of last year.

COVID-19 has impacted their operations somewhat – the tables may be more spread out now – but the market is an essential service. If anything, the pandemic might be resulting in more traffic, she said. Local residents have less ability to travel far away and are choosing to stay and shop local.

"We definitely saw a lot of tourists last summer; people coming from all over Ontario,

stopping in Haliburton. There were cottagers and day trippers; there definitely seems to be more domestic travel."

She also stressed how impactful it is to support local vendors. Buying locally, she explained, lessens the need for imported food,

which leads to less transportation and less carbon footprint. At the same time, it supports the local economy. "It's a direct economy," she said. "There is no middle man."

For more information on the market visit, betahcfma.wordpress.com.

THE TOWNSHIP OF MINDEN HILLS IN SEASON, EVERY SEASON

PUBLIC NOTICE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Corporation of the Township of Minden Hills proposes to consider by-laws to stop up, close, and convey those parcels of land more particularly described as follows:

- 1. File No. PLSRA2020067:** Part of the original shore road allowance along the shore of Gull River, lying in front 1020 Moore Lake Estates Road located within Lot 27, Concession 4, Geographic Township of Lutterworth
- 2. File No. PLSRA2020043:** Part of the original shore road allowance along the shore of Black Lake, lying in front of 11255 Black Lake (Water Access Only) located within Lot 25, Concession 8, Geographic Township of Lutterworth
- 3. File No. PLSRA2020056:** Part of the original shore road allowance along the shore of Black Lake, lying in front of 11267 Black Lake (Water Access Only) located Lot 25, Concession 8, Geographic Township of Lutterworth
- 4. File No. PLSRA2021058:** Part of the original shore road allowance along the shore of Kashagawigamog Lake, lying in front of 1023 Pocket Trail located within Lot 27, Concession 4, Geographic Township of Minden
- 5. File No. PLSRA2021059:** Part of the original shore road allowance along the shore of Kashagawigamog Lake, lying in front of Vacant Land having Roll Number 4616-030-000-81002-0000 on Pocket Trail located within Lot 27, Concession 4, Geographic Township of Minden
- 6. File No. PLSRA2021060:** Part of the original shore road allowance along the shore of Kashagawigamog Lake, lying in front of 1010 Crofters Lane located within Lot 27, Concession 4, Geographic Township of Minden
- 7. File No. PLSRA2021061:** Part of the original shore road allowance along the shore of Kashagawigamog Lake, lying in front of 1014 Crofters Lane located within Lot 27, Concession 4, Geographic Township of Minden
- 8. File No. PLSRA2021062:** Part of the original shore road allowance along the shore of Kashagawigamog Lake, lying in front of 1032 Crofters Lane located within Lot 27, Concession 4, Geographic Township of Minden
- 9. File No. PLSRA2021063:** Part of the original shore road allowance along the shore of Kashagawigamog Lake, lying in front of Vacant Land having Roll Number 4616-030-000-80500-0000 on Crofters Lane located within Lot 27, Concession 4, Geographic Township of Minden
- 10. File No. PLSRA2021064:** Part of the original shore road allowance along the shore of Kashagawigamog Lake, lying in front of Vacant Land having Roll Number 4616-030-000-80400-0000 on Crofters Lane located within Lot 27, Concession 4, Geographic Township of Minden
- 11. File No. PLSRA2021079:** Part of the original shore road allowance along the shore of Twelve Mile Lake, lying in front of 1540 Twelve Mile Lake Road located within Lot 8, Concession 10, Geographic Township of Minden

The above noted plans of surveys are available for inspection in the Building and Planning Department located at 7 Milne Street, Minden, Ontario by appointment only. Additional information may be obtained by contacting the undersigned or by visiting www.mindenhills.ca/newsroom.

AND FURTHER TAKE NOTICE any person who claims that their land will be prejudicially affected is asked to contact the undersigned at their earliest convenience. If deemed advisable, By-laws giving effect to the proposed closure and conveyance will be passed by the Council for the Corporation of the Township of Minden Hills.

Amanda Dougherty, B.A. (Hons)
Township Planning Consultant
705-742-2297x278
adougherty@mindenhills.ca

D.I.Y.

IT'S THE beginning of 2022 and we're still living within the parameters of a pandemic. What do you do now that your bread baking skills are top notch, the house renovations are done and the underwear drawer is sorted and organized? You make yourself a project, that's what you do!

I find it amazing how quickly we look outside of ourselves for something to improve. The idea of an actual, and somewhat measurable, self improvement project came to me a couple of weeks ago when the news hit that we won't be getting back to pre-pandemic activities any time soon. In past articles I have written about our health tripod. The three components of the tripod are movement, nourishment, and rest. If one of these three elements are lacking the tripod is off balance. This D.I.Y. project is all about assessing each part of the tripod and either getting them to an optimal level or ensuring that they stay at that level or close to it.

Your mission, should you choose to accept it, is to spend the next three months improving your health and fitness. All that you need for this project is a pencil and a piece of paper. You can get fancier if you like. Personally, I like a wall calendar and some coloured makers. Once you have those tools in hand it's time to begin!

1. Decide which of the three components you'd like to tackle first, second and third (movement, nourishment or rest).

2. Get out a calendar and figure out the timelines for your project, dedicating a month for each component.

3. Track your daily activity. Doesn't matter what that activity is or how much of a change that you experience. Write it all down and be honest about it. Ideally, you're looking for improvements but sometimes it takes a few

missteps before that happens.

4. Once you finish the first month try to keep the new habits going as you embark on improving on the next component you have chosen. When you finish the second month keep all those new habits going as you move on to the final component.

5. Celebrate along the way with a "yay me" or a pat on the back. Psychologically this goes a long way. Try it before you knock it.

A fact about health/fitness is that any little improvement helps. Here are some basic tips:

Movement: If you're not moving, get moving. Walking, dancing, wall push-ups all count! If you are moving, change up your routine to offer more variety. The human body loves variety!

Nourishment: Vegetables and fruits. Eat more fresh (or frozen can be good too) vegetables and fruits. That's it, that's all.

Rest: Get more sleep. There's nothing better to heal thy soul (not to mention all of the other ailments that we experience) than good ole shut eye! Trust me, your life will likely improve if you don't watch the 11 p.m. news! Get to bed just a few minutes earlier than you normally do, and then increase that amount until you find your best bed time.

This little project has the potential of getting you through the next three months feeling better than you have for the past couple of years. At the end of the three months, we may or may not be out of the pandemic but you can reflect on how great it feels to have made an investment in yourself!

Something to think about.

Laurie Sweig is a certified personal fitness trainer and spinning instructor. She owns and operates The Point for Fitness. She can be reached at laurie@thepointforfitness.com.



LAURIE SWEIG
Practical Fitness

Canadiens down Huskies in controversial finish

by ALEX GALLACHER
Special to the Times

The Haliburton County Huskies entered 2022 riding a six-game winning streak. With the last two matches against Caledon and Mississauga being postponed due to COVID-19, the Huskies were eager to get back on the ice Jan. 2, at the S.G Nesbitt Memorial Arena.

The story heading into the game, was that starting Huskies netminder Christian Cicigoi would be out of the lineup and in his place backup Christian Linton got the nod. In his first game since the Ontario Junior Hockey League Governors' Showcase, Linton wanted to make a good impression on the reduced capacity crowd.

In the first period, Huskies forward Oliver Tarr was pelted Canadiens netminder Shelby Warren with shot after shot. An incredibly physical game, both teams traded blows with players such as Joe Boice, Nick Athanasakos and Ryan Hall stepping up to make big hits for the blue and white.

The Canadiens responded with a few good scoring chances

of their own, the best of the period being one near-goal by Eric Vitale, who rang a shot off the crossbar. The teams headed back to the locker room tied 0-0.

Tarr got the game's first goal at 10:58 in the second period. After a bad turnover by the Canadiens gave Tarr free open space in front of the net, he made no mistake burying it for the 1-0 lead and his 24th goal of the season.

With the Huskies up by one, a fire lit under the bellies of the Canadiens and fans at the S.G. Nesbitt Memorial Arena were in for a very controversial finish.

After Huskies defenceman Alex Pasternak took an interference call, the Canadiens got on the board. The Canadiens' Matthew Wilde found some open space in the slot, going post and in on Linton to tie the game up at one apiece. Two minutes later and Tyler Fukafusa would feed Christian Catalano for a one-timer to give the Canadiens the lead.

As the minutes ticked down, the Huskies pulled their goalie mounting an all-out assault on Warren. As the players hacked away at the puck, Tarr knocked the puck in as the whistle blew to stop the play. The fans and Huskies players started to celebrate, but the goal was waved off by the officials as they

claimed the net had been dislodged.

To the ire of both the players and head coach Ryan Ramsay, Tarr had argued the net wasn't off when the puck had gone in while others argued the net wasn't even off to begin with. Regardless, the pleas of the Huskies went in vain as the Canadiens held on for the 2-1 win. As the final whistle blew a major scrap broke out involving, most notably, Huskies players Nathan Porter and Peyton Schaly among others.

While the result didn't play out in favour of the Huskies, Linton was still very excited to be back playing in front of a home crowd. Stopping 27 of 29 shots, Linton put on a great performance in goal.

"It felt good to be back," Linton said. "I think we played well defensively for the most part, we got quite a bit of chances but we just gotta focus on hitting the net. Just wish we could've walked away with the 'W' tonight."

The Huskies were to be back Jan. 7 to take on the Mississauga Chargers for the first time in team history, but that game has been cancelled as the S.G. Nesbitt Memorial Arena was closed to all gatherings as per provincial law.



Huskies celebrate a new year with practice

The Haliburton County Huskies coach Ryan Ramsay, in grey, speaks with players before running a drill during a practice on Saturday, Jan. 1 held at the A.J. LaRue Arena in Haliburton. It was the first time the Ontario Junior Hockey League team used the facility and was originally part of a New Year's Day event, which included a public skate with fans. The practice proceeded despite the public skate being cancelled due to COVID-19 protocols implemented by the OJHL recently. /DARREN LUM Staff

SUDOKU SOLUTION

1	5	2	4	3	7	8	6	9
6	3	9	1	8	5	4	7	2
4	8	7	2	9	6	3	5	1
9	6	3	5	2	4	1	8	7
2	4	5	7	1	8	9	3	6
7	1	8	3	6	9	5	2	4
8	7	1	6	4	3	2	9	5
5	9	4	8	7	2	6	1	3
3	2	6	9	5	1	7	4	8



Haliburton County Huskies players work through a drill during a practice on Saturday, Jan. 1 held at the A.J. LaRue Arena in Haliburton.

Is Licensed Home Child Care the career you've been looking for?

Dozens of families in Minden and Haliburton County are in need of child care. Join Compass ELC as a licensed home child care provider and join a team of passionate, caring professionals who believe in delivering high quality child care. We are a not-for-profit organization that licenses you and provides the resources and support you need while you grow your own business!

We provide you the training, materials, and back-up support so that you can make a difference in children's lives while working from home!

Getting started has never been easier!

- We offer a \$500 start-up kit for Providers
- Funding to cover administration costs
- Incentives for bringing in new families or Providers
- Toy and loose parts lending library, access to equipment
- Back up care and planned outings/programming

www.compasselc.com | 705-313-0647 | cklhcc@compasselc.com



GENERATIONS

Ringing out 2021 - Looking forward to 2022

As I write this article, the EarlyON staff have been busy hosting community Jingle Bell Sing-Alongs to wish everyone happy holidays as we wind down another year. In Minden and Wilberforce, our small groups of families were able to enjoy the crisp but sunny winter weather and sing some festive favourites, as well as take home small packages. The bells that each child received really made it sound and feel like Christmas was around the corner! In Haliburton, families were able to pick up their bells and packages and participate in a mini-sing along from their cars! A big thank you to the Haliburton County libraries for use of their grounds for our holiday events.

The end of 2021 also brought seasonal activities, art and music to our indoor and outdoor early learning programs. We have been lucky to have had the use of the Minden Lions Hall, the Haliburton Legion, Rotary Park, and Head Lake Park this past fall - we could not have provided our programs without these sites and we are thankful. We are also grateful to our partner agencies who we have collaborated with on various projects and programs, coming together during another challenging year to offer support and services to our community. And last but not least, to the families who have joined us, participating in our mail-out programs, engaging with us in the parks (even when the weather was not so great!) and enjoy-

ing our indoor programs with the health guidelines in place - thank you for continuing to connect with us, you make it all worthwhile!

We look forward to seeing everyone in 2022, and at this time we are getting our school locations prepared for re-opening. There will be small, pre-registered groups available on various mornings at Archie Stouffer Elementary School, J.D. Hodgson Elementary School, the Lloyd Watson Centre and the Wilberforce branch of the library. Due to the changing COVID restrictions, our re-opening plans may be delayed, but you can still sign up if you are interested in attending and we will keep you posted.

Stay tuned for more information, activities and to register for any of our in-person or zoom programs through our Facebook page (oeyc.haliburtonvictoriabrock), website (www.oeyc.ca) or call us at 705-324-7900.

Happy New Year from the staff of the EarlyON Child and Family Centre!

*Submitted by Julie Bosker
Program Coordinator
EarlyON Child and Family Centre
Minden and Haliburton*



Callum Fildey, 2, explores the big blue tunnel with Arden Merritt, 2.5, at the EarlyON program in Minden. /Photos submitted by Julie Bosker



Arden Merritt, 2.5, creates some festive art at the Minden Lions Hall.

Brielle Hopkins, with jingle bells at the ready, took in all of the singing and dancing and especially the loving attention from her brother Nixon during the EarlyON Christmas event. /SUE TIFFIN Staff



Kids met outdoors at the Minden Hills Cultural Centre to join in the jingle bell event on Dec. 20. /SUE TIFFIN Staff



Kinslee, 1, and Annalee Hunter, 3, had fun with scarves while rocking in a saucer at the EarlyON program in Minden.

Our Around the County Town page featuring you and your loved ones throughout the county or beyond will be back next week. To be part of it, please send photos or your advice on 'how to' do something to sue@haliburtonpress.com.

Canoe FM Radio

BINGO

Hottest
Game
in Town!

Listen and Play every Tuesday Night at 6pm
Three games are played each Tuesday Night

For information and a list of stores
selling bingo sheets go to
www.canoeFM.com
manager@canoeFM.com

You can win up to \$800.00 every week!
Bingo License #M819775

CANOE
100.9 FM



Minden Times Classifieds

Call 705-286-1288 classifieds@haliburtonpress.com Deadline 4 pm Each Monday

Classified Word Ad Special

25 Words
Your ad will run in
The Echo, The Times
& County Life
Only \$15 ^{+HST}

390 SERVICES

ROY PETRY Renovations

*Counter Top Replacement/Bath Remodel
*Windows/Doors
*Handyman Services
*Wood Flooring *Trim Work
*Interior/Exterior Painting
*Pressure Cleaning
*Fixtures & Fans Installed
*Drywall Taping & Repair
*Deck Building & Dock Repair
~NO JOB TOO SMALL~
705-457-7179 cell

Batteries & Generators

Batteries, all types;
Truck, Tractor,
Snowmobile, Motorcycle,
Generators;
Standby & Regular
PLUS Tractor Chains
1-800-954-9998 or (705) 741-6097
KawarthaBattery@gmail.com

Commercial and Residential Cleaning Available

Special Holiday Rates!
Call Megan today at
(289) 339-1516
mrevill369@hotmail.com

STEEL ROOFING & SIDING

29 gauge steel Galv \$120 per sq.
40 year paint \$150 per sq.
ON SALE...
Painted \$144 per sq.
Barr Steel Sales
705-723-8080
www.sbsteel.ca

Mike A. Thomson
General Contracting
Roofing - Garages
Carpentry & Repairs
Call Today!
(705) 457-6365

Same Day Screen Repair
call or visit the
CARRIAGE HOUSE
705-286-2994
www.haliburtonroom.com

200 FOR SALE

BILLBOARD SIGN LOCATION FOR RENT. HWY 118 WESTBOUND BETWEEN QUEEN'S LINE RD & BOBCAYGEON RD. PLS CALL 705-457-0473 FOR DETAILS

220 FIREWOOD FOR SALE

CUT SPLIT & DELIVERED seasoned firewood. 90% maple/all hardwood. Very clean wood. Dry also available. CALL AND INQUIRE: 705-930-7198.

400 EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY



Well established heating and cooling company is looking for technicians with one or more of the following licenses: oil, gas, a/c or sheet metal.

Excellent team, top wages and plenty of room for advancement in our fast-growing company.

Please send resume to:
kegelheatingandcooling@hotmail.com

280 WANTED

SCRAP CARS, TRUCKS & MACHINERY REMOVED
\$\$ CASH \$\$ PAID
Free Pick up.
Call Today 705 340-2094

380 COMMERCIAL SPACE FOR RENT

SELF CONTAINED STORAGE UNITS for rent, discounts available, located on Industrial Park Road in Haliburton. CALL 705 457-1224.

540 COMING EVENTS

NORWOOD COUNTRY JAMBOREE July 14 - July 17, 2022 Norwood Fairgrounds
Call for tickets 1(800) 954-999 or (705) 741-6097 Website: norwoodcountryjamboree.com

560 ANNOUNCEMENTS



Highlands Summer Festival AUDITION CALL

Auditions for this summer's productions of:

The Sound of Music
The Importance of Being Earnest
Every Brilliant Thing

And interviews for
Early Stages Youth (10-14) Theatre Program
will be held Saturday & Sunday February 4 & 5, at
Haliburton United Church.

Audition packages are available at
www.highlandssummerfestival.on.ca

Be sure to review the package before booking your audition time by calling Betty Mills at 705-457-1354 or emailing: bettydavid.mills@gmail.com

SCOT DENTON: Artistic Producer
MELISSA STEPHENS: Executive Producer



Start 2022 off with a job you love that helps others too! Join the amazing team at SIRCH Community Services in Haliburton County. We are currently looking for:

- Marketplace Coordinator -- help local entrepreneurs and artists grow their businesses
- Coordinator, Senior Wellbeing -- help isolated seniors feel valued, connected, and less alone
- Group Facilitator -- help parents connect, learn and foster loving relationships with their children
- Thrift Warehouse Associate -- bring customer service to a whole new level

For more information or job description send an email to info@sirch.on.ca.
If applying send a cover letter and resume to: info@sirch.on.ca

follow us on twitter

The Minden Times



Minden Times Classifieds

Call 705-286-1288
classifieds@haliburtonpress.com
Deadline 4 pm Monday

400 EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY



Haliburton Highlands Health Services has a need for Full-Time, Part-Time (Permanent and/or Temporary) and Casual staff for the noted classifications below.

RN's and RPN's are expected to be available for both Minden and Haliburton Hospital locations. In addition, opportunities are available in our two Long Term Care facilities, Hyland Wood and Hyland Crest. The **Registered Nurse** earns \$33.90 /hr - \$48.53/hr and is responsible for providing comprehensive care to patients, with predictable and unpredictable outcomes who may or may not be clinically stable. The successful candidate will possess a diploma/degree in Nursing and a current Certificate of Competence from the College of Nurses of Ontario. Two years of acute care practice is required; previous emergency department or specialty department experience of 1 year or more is preferred. Recent experience is preferred.

Registered Practical Nurses earn \$30.58 - \$31.75/hr and provide client care in accordance with the Professional Standards of the College of Nurses of Ontario. She or he, as a member of the health care team, has a significant role in promoting health, preventing illness, and helping clients attain and maintain the highest level of health possible in situations in which a client's condition is relatively stable, less complex and the outcomes of care are predictable. RPN's must have a diploma in Nursing, a Current Certificate of Competence from the College of Nurses of Ontario, current BCLS. Must have a demonstrated knowledge of RPN scope of practice, excellent organization and prioritization skills and an ability to fully communicate in English.

Personnel Support Workers earns \$22.25 - \$24.85/hr and provide resident care in relation to activities of daily living. PSW's help residents attain and maintain the highest level of health possible in situations in which a resident's condition is relatively stable, less complex and the outcomes of care are predictable. Successful completion of Personal Support Worker program which meets one of the following:
The vocational standards established by the Ministry of Training, Colleges and Universities,
The standards established by the National Association of Career Colleges, or
The standards established by the Ontario Community Support Association; and
Must be a minimum of 600 hours in duration, counting both class time and practical experience.

Interested: Submit your application and resume to:

Human Resources
Haliburton Highlands Health Services
Box 115, Haliburton, ON K0M 1S0
E-mail: hr@hhhs.ca
Fax: 705-457-4609



THE MINDEN COMMUNITY FOOD CENTRE REQUIRES A MANAGER

The successful applicant must have the following qualifications:

- Excellent organizational and people skills
- Self starter with the ability to work independently
- Creative thinker with excellent problem solving skills
- Knowledge and understanding of the charitable and/or not for profit operating environment would be an asset
- Computer skills in record keeping and communication with a knowledge of windows, ms word; excel and ms outlook
- A valid driver's licence

This is a permanent/part-time position.

Interviews will be held during the week of January 17, 2022. Please send a detailed resume to: mindenfoodbankpthornett@gmail.com or mail to:
Minden Community Food Centre
P.O. Box 893, Minden, Ont. K0M 2K0

**Sell that unwanted item in
our CLASSIFIED sections.**

Three papers, One Low Price!

\$15.00 For up to
25 words.

Your classified
word ad will
appear in all
three of our
weekly papers:
*The Echo, Times
and County Life.*



**Call 705-457-1037
or 705-286-1288**

Weekly ad deadline: Thursday 4 p.m.

County **Life**



**Combined audited weekly
circulation 8,100
2020**

GOT A NEWS TIP?

Let us know about it!



Call **The Times**
MINDEN ONTARIO

at 705-286-1288

or email

sue@haliburtonpress.com

Minden Times Classifieds

Call 705-286-1288
classifieds@haliburtonpress.com
Deadline 4 pm Monday

600 FUNERAL SERVICES



Gordon A. Monk
Funeral Home Ltd.
Pre-Planning Centre

"Serving Haliburton and Victoria Counties"

(705) 286-2181
Toll Free 1-888-588-5777
Fax: 705-286-6661
127 Main St., Minden

Representatives for Lons Memorials (visit our on site display) • www.gordonmonkfuneralhome.com

Call for information explaining many of the options available to you.

We can help...

- We offer pre-need and at need packages for cremation, burial and memorial arrangements
- Family and reception centre
- Kids play room
- Bereavement support, services & lending library
- Affordable cost options



HALIBURTON Community FUNERAL HOME
"Providing a Service that respects your wishes"



13523 Highway 118, Haliburton
705.457.9209
www.communityfuneralhomes.com

Compassionate funeral planning...



~ SINCE 1872 ~

Five Generations of Excellence

Serving Haliburton, Minden Hills, Kawartha Lakes & Brock Township

Brian Smith
705.324.9222

Office & Showroom
17 Russell St. W.

(Royal Plaza)Lindsay
1.800.461.0282

www.sandersonmonument.ca

650 OBITUARIES



In Loving Memory of Ward, Arthur Allen (Art)

who died peacefully on December 28, 2021 at Columbia Forest LTC in Waterloo. He was born on April 13, 1937 in Arnprior ON where he attended elementary and high school where his father Allen Ward was the principal. Art graduated from Ryerson Polytechnical Institute in Toronto with a diploma in Hotel Administration and a one season roster assignment with the Toronto Argonauts that would later earn him an induction into the Ryerson Sports Hall of Fame.

While attending Ryerson Art met Joan Douglas (interior design) whom he married in 1960 after fun-filled summers working together at Cleveland House followed by multiple assignments with The Holiday Inn and Skyline Hotels. In 1967 Art and Joan settled down and bought the WigaMog Inn located in beautiful Haliburton, ON which they poured their heart and soul into for 27 years.

Art ardently served his community for most of his life earning such honours as Rotarian of the Year, Innkeeper of the Year, and Highlander of the Year. He served as President of several organizations including the Haliburton Rotary club, Lake Kashagawigamog Tourist Ass'n, and the Chamber of Commerce. He was named a Paul Harris Fellow twice, earned a Rotary Lifetime Achievement Award, and the Canada 150 Volunteer Award. He loved his Rotary Family dearly and is well remembered for his enthusiastic BBQ beef-on-a-bun fundraising talents, boisterous baritone singing, somewhat coercive auctioneering skills, and his generous hand at hosting dozens of colorful Rotary events – including one featuring 'horsecake'.

Provincially, Art served as Chairman of Resorts Ontario, as director of Ontario Place Corporation and on the board of the Metro Toronto Convention Centre. He also served as Vice Chairman of the Ontario Hostelry Institute as well as the inaugural Innkeeper of the Pinestone Inn and Country Club (1-2-1 Corp). He was a champion for Tourism and a true "dyed-blue-in-the-wool" Tory as evidenced by his many friends and a long-term membership at the Albany Club in Toronto. To say that his political stripes were loud and obvious would be an understatement of epic proportions.

Art is also fondly remembered as a passionate 50+ year member of the annual Florida Snow-Bird Pilgrimage for resort owners. We cherish the wonderful memories of WigaMog Inn with many staff and guest families, lots of singing Rotarians, many loquacious political events, and most of all, his larger than life personality as he worked his way through every room he entered. He was an engaging mentor and an authentic friend leaving positive and powerful impressions on many he met.

He is predeceased by his brother James (Jim) Ward (1978) and is survived by his wife Joan, sister Nora Oldfield, daughters Kimberley and Lisa, son Christopher and 10 grandchildren. As per Art's wishes, there will be no service. Cremation will take place at the Erb & Good Funeral Home in Waterloo with his final resting place at the Ingoldsby United Cemetery near his beloved town of Haliburton. Charitable donations can be made to your local Rotary Club as "Service Above Self" is what Art was all about. His singing will be missed but the echoes will last forever. Thank you for everything dad, we love and miss you dearly.

650 OBITUARIES



In Loving Memory of Robert "Rob" David Clark

Passed away suddenly as the result of a head-on collision with a dump truck on Highway 35 North of Lindsay on Tuesday, December 14, 2021. Rob was 64 years old.

Rob was the best friend and loving husband of Mary Lou Clark (nee Austen) for over 13 years. Loving father of Adrienne Clark (Kristian Berry), Adam Clark (deceased 2012), Crystal Austen (Tyler), Jennifer (Jimmy) Abbott, Jeff Packard, and grandpa to Hannah, Adria, Chloe, Kalli, Brady, Valla and Rylee. Beloved son of Audrey and the late Scott Clark. Dear brother of Cindy (Lloyd) Adamson, Kim (Glen) Schnarr, and Ron (Lynn) Clark. Lovingly remembered by his family and friends.

A Memorial Gathering to celebrate Rob's Life will be held at a later date when it is safe to do so. Cremation has taken place.

Memorial Donations to the Kawartha/ Haliburton Victim Services or to the Ontario Brain Injury Society would be appreciated by the family and can be arranged through the Gordon A. Monk Funeral Home Ltd., P.O. Box 427, Minden, Ontario K0M 2K0.



www.gordonmonkfuneralhome.com



In Loving Memory of Dale Gunther Brauer

It is with great sadness that we announce the death of our dear son Dale Gunther Brauer on Thursday December 23, 2021, in his 49th year.

His parents, Yvette, Gunther and his brother Trevor from Kinmount and his son Taylor from Orillia are devastated. He will be missed by his many cousins, aunts, uncles and friends.

Dale was always ready to help, a generous soul. Forever wanting to fix things. He had many talents which he willingly shared. A regular MacGyver!

Due to Covid-19 restrictions there is no visitation. Cremation has already taken place. A celebration of life will be planned in the future when it is safe to do so.

Memorial Donations to the Special Olympics Ontario, Haliburton County Red Wolves (cheques only) would be appreciated by the family and can be arranged through the Gordon A. Monk Funeral Home Ltd., P.O. Box 427, Minden, Ontario K0M 2K0.



www.gordonmonkfuneralhome.com

Excellent Selection of used snowmobiles at
PRENTICE POWER SPORTS LTD.
 Hwy.35, south of Minden
286-2750
 "Canada's #1 Ski-Doo dealer"

MONDAY, JANUARY 7, 2002
 No. 2034

THE TIMES

A publication of Algonquin Graphics Limited

MINDEN

HALLS LAKE AREA
3 BEDROOM HOME
\$47,500
 Recently renovated, has access to Halls Lake with dock, drilled well. Ask for Doug.
Doug Johnson
 Broker
Countrywide
 Real Estate Ltd.
 Box 206-2062 Rte. 409-1234

\$1 INCLUDING GST

This week



Glares & hugs

There's been plenty of both in Minden Hills' first, somewhat tumultuous, year. Reeve Ross Rigney says that's a good thing.

see page 3



Ice action

They're clearing a track for the Minden Ice Races, Jan. 19 & 20.

see page 9

Notable quotes :

"It was just a giant heap of white ... I couldn't even walk through it."

David Lee, page 1

"Whether it's the answer they want or not, they deserve one."

Ross Rigney, page 3

Commentary

The Times they are a changin'. Part two.

editorial, page 6



Darren Lamb/TIMES

Snug as bugs in rugs

The grown-ups may be complaining about all the snow dumped on the Minden area recently but the kids are just plain loving it! Twelve-year-old Curtis Penick and his 13-year-old buddy, Shane Fenwick, wasted no time building an enormous snow house on Bobcaygeon Rd., just across the street from Archie Stouffer Elementary School. The boys started construction New Year's Day and finished up a few days later. For more about the snowstorm that rocked the Moore's Falls area, see story.

Biggest private donation ever for food bank

by ALLISON TAYLOR
 Times staff

A surprise contribution of \$1,000 from a private donor helped the Minden Food Bank and the Christmas Baskets program fill some hungry tummies in the community over the December crunch.

While Food Bank Treasurer Jim Hicks wouldn't name the individual who gave the cash infusion to the food bank, he said it is the largest donation ever given by an individual.

There were several other contributions as well, Hicks said, under-

ing the fact that every donation helps the food bank support those less fortunate.

"We did very well this year," Hicks said. "We really appreciate the generosity of everyone in the community."

The food bank works closely with various churches, service organizations, local businesses and hundreds of individual in the community, in order to make sure people in the area don't go hungry.

"It's an emergency food bank meant to help people get over tough times," Hicks said.

The Township of Minden Hills

also donates \$3,000 to the cause, half to the food bank and the other \$1,500 goes toward the Christmas Baskets program, an initiative providing baskets of food, toys and other items families might require over the holidays but might not necessarily be able to afford.

The Christmas baskets program was "awesome" this year, said organizer Ron Reid, who works closely with the food bank to ensure the baskets are filled.

"We gave out 133 baskets, the same as last year," he said. "It filled the need."

see NEED page 2

Vehicle vanishes in snow

Moore's Falls area digs out from major storm

by ALLISON TAYLOR
 Times staff

When David Lee went to bed on the night of Dec. 30, his navy Subaru Outback was safely parked in the driveway in front of his house — right where he left it.

The next morning, the Moore Lake resident couldn't find it.

"I looked out the window and it was just gone," he said with a chuckle.

He laughs because the car wasn't stolen or even missing from where Lee had parked it the night before: it just wasn't visible.

It was hiding.

In fact, the Subaru and everything else outside was swallowed under approximately four ft (1.2 metres) of snow, Lee said. The official accumulation of snowfall has yet to be determined.

"It was just a giant heap of white."

Over the course of one evening the snow had collected in the southern part of Minden Hills, around Moore's Falls, Kinmount and Norland, to the point where, not only his automobile and barbecue were completely camouflaged, but the dog pen in the backyard of his house was almost undetectable.

"You couldn't even tell there was a fence there," he said.

Lee said the snow started falling that night and he could hardly see anything other than the white of the snow outside his window.

When he woke up in the morning, "the snow was everywhere."

After a large effort to push his front door open, Lee said he was able to extend his arm to the shovel he had luckily left beside the door. Once his hand firmly grasped the handle of the shovel, Lee said he put his head down and just started moving the snow off the porch.

"I couldn't even walk through it,"

see WINTER page 2

COLDWELL BANKER



WILEY REAL ESTATE
 Minden • Hwy. 35 & Main St.

286-4441

1-800-701-7331



AL MAYO
 Sales Representative



JOHN HINCKS
 Assoc. Broker/Manager



ANNE MOULTON
 Sales Representative



BOB AUSTIN
 Sales Representative



ALF HELLEMAN
 Sales Representative

MINDEN LAKE \$169,900



Well built waterfront home or year round cottage, close to Minden, docks at lake, sand beach, excellent location for retired couple or great family cottage.

Ask for Al Mayo, Sales Representative

Locally Owned. Genuinely Canadian.
When you support local, local supports you.

MINDEN HOME HARDWARE

705-286-1351

Proudly owned by
 Dan & Emily Moulton



Here's How.

building centre

Here's My Card

BUILDERS & CONTRACTORS

G. Rowden Building
Specializing in

- Cottage lifting
- Basements
- Perimeter Walls
- Concrete Slabs

(705) 457-2168

BUILDING SUPPLIES

EMMERSON RENT-ALL

Husqvarna STIHL

63 Maple Ave., Haliburton Phone: 705-457-1550
Out of Town Customers Call: 1-888-339-3325
email: information@emersonlumber.com • www.emersonlumber.com

Cottage Country Building Supplies

15492 Hwy #35, Carnarvon
Phone: 705-489-2212 Toll Free: 1-844-308-4212
www.cottagecountrybuildingsupplies.com

***Insulated Concrete Forms (ICF)**
(insulation, vapour barrier and studs in one form)

Everything you need for an ICF Build
(Block, rebar, foam, bracing, zip ties and more...)

Guided installs and experienced local builder referrals

EVERYTHINGICF
BY WOOD LUMBER

Bill Wood
Cell: 647.236.WOOD (9663)
Office: 705.306.4911
Web: everythingicf.ca
Email: info@everythingicf.ca

amvic
building system
7581 Hwy 118, Minden Hills

CHIMNEY SERVICES

MYERS CHIMNEY
A Division of 2277341 ONTARIO INC.

- Sweeping • Installation
- Repair • Inspection
- Stove Glass Replacement
- Wood & Pellet Stove

Sales & Service

Visit our showroom on South Lake Road
705-286-1245
www.myerschimney.com

Blaze King Sirocco 30hr burn time

COTTAGE SERVICES

Cottage Check

Weekly/Bi-weekly Cottage Surveillance
Cottage Opening/Closing
Dock Installation/Removal
Snow Removal of Decks/Walkways/Roofs
UV Systems & Filters, Firewood

Call or text Norm Barry
705 457 0153
info@normbarry.com
www.normbarry.ca
Fully Insured

Relax Let me do the work!

Local Services
at your
fingertips!

HEATING & COOLING

KEGEL
HEATING & COOLING

Tim Kegel

Bus: 705-341-9170
Fax: 705-489-4522
Email: kegelheatingandcooling@hotmail.com

- Geothermal Systems
- Furnaces
- Fireplaces
- Hot Water Tanks
- Air Conditioning
- HRV's
- Radiant Floor Heating
- Chimneys
- Ductwork
- Radiant Tube Heaters
- Gas Piping
- Boilers
- AND MORE

MASONRY SERVICES

Concrete Slabs
Block & ICF Foundations
Specializing in Foundation Sealing
Epoxy Floors

D&K MASONRY

Derek Rowden
705-754-0466

dandkmasonry1@gmail.com
www.dandkmasonry.com

QUALITY WORKMANSHIP | Fully Insured

Kema Masonry

David Sikkema 705.457.0249

Natural Stone • Manufactured Stone
Stone and Brick Veneer

david.sikkema@gmail.com
www.kemamasonry.com

ELECTRICAL SERVICES

Celebrating Over 40 Years in the Haliburton Community

Sharp Electric

COTTAGE • HOME
COMMERCIAL • INDUSTRIAL
Electrical Contracting & Services

Info@sharpelectric.ca 705.457.2640 sharpelectric.ca

Pole Lines
Hydro Poles
Electric Heat
Service Upgrades & Repairs
Back-up Generator Systems

FLOORING SERVICES

D&K Epoxy Solutions

Epoxy coverings, the future of durability, style and quality we stand behind...

- Professional Grade Products For Residential And Commercial
- Floor Grinding, Polishing, And Repairs.
- Decorative Coatings
- Metallic Epoxy Floors
- Chips And Quartz Floor Systems
- Indoor And Outdoor
- Cover Plywood, Concrete, Decks And More...

Derek Rowden dandkepoxy@gmail.com | www.dandkepoxy.com
705-754-0466

WSIB Coverage | Fully Insured

We take your business
personally!

PROPERTY SERVICES

AM PROJECT SERVICES

SNOW PLOWING
LAWN CUTTING
SMALL ENGINE REPAIRS
SNOWMOBILE & ATV

AL & LISA McPHERSON
amprojectservice@gmail.com
705 896 0438

REPAIR SERVICES

TASN The Appliance Service Network



Rick Gibson
Certified Technician

705.489.1114
rick@tasn.ca
www.tasn.ca

Servicing All Makes of Appliances Since 1983
Caring for our neighbours from Dorset to Minden to Haliburton

SEPTIC SERVICES

FRENCH
Septic Pumping

Septic & Holding Tanks Pumped

705.457.1152
Mike & Laura Shepherd

Email: lshepherd@shepherdenvironmental.ca

Year Round Service

WATER & WELL SERVICES

Great service, great prices.

Casey's
WATER WELL & GEOTHERMAL INC.

Your year-round well drilling experts.

Get ahead of your to do list and book your drilled well now!

Call us today 705-457-9558 or visit us online www.caseyswaterwell.ca

SERVING COTTAGE COUNTRY SINCE 1987

- Water Treatment Systems
- Winter Water Systems
- Well Systems
- Waste Water Systems
- Viqua UV Systems
- Heat Cables
- Hot Water Tanks
- Hot Tub Water Care Service
- Beachcomber Hot Tubs
- Marquis Spas
- Operations of Small Drinking Water Systems
- Limited Sub Systems
- Well Contractor
- Well Technician

THE PUMP SHOP
Your Water Specialists

5161 County Road 21, Haliburton, ON
ThePumpShop.ca | info@thepumpshop.ca
705.457.2638 | 888.312.PUMP